Vol. XXVIII—No. 2.

Council Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Council

Twenty-Eighth Session, 1928

20th and 29th February and 1st March, 1928

CALCUTTA
Bengal Secretariat Book Depot
1928

Published by the Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

Agents in India.

Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Printers and Booksellers, College Street, Calcutta.

Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

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A

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C

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Chakravarti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]

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* Deputy President, Bengal Legislative Council.

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D

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Dutt, Mr. G. S. (Nominated Official.)

E

Eddis, Mr. A. McD. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

F

Faroqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
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G

Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
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H

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Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
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Huq, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]

I

Ismail, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. F. E., O.B.E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Kasem, Maulvi Abul. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan.)]
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Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

L

Lahiri, Mr. Basanta Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Lala, Babu Saroda Kripa. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Lindsay, Mr. J. H. (Nominated Official.)

M

Macartney, Mr. J. G. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
MacBean, Mr. J. A. (Indian Tea Association.)
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Mukerjea, Srijut Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Non-official.)

N

Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
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O

Oaten, Mr. E. F. (Nominated Official.)

P

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R

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Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
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Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Sachse, Mr. F. A. (Nominated Official.)
Sanyal, Babu Sachindra Narayan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]

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* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Sarbadhikari, Dr. Sir Deva Prosad, Kt., c.i.e., c.b.e. (Nominated Non-official.)

Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]

Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)

Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]

Sattar, Mr. Abdool Razak Hajee Abdool. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sen, Mr. Satish Chandra. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Sen, Srijut Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]

Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]

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Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)

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Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

T

Tate, Major-General Godfrey, M.B., V.H.S., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)

Thompson, Mr. W. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

W

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Twenty-eighth Session.)

VOLUME XXVIII—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Monday, the 20th February, 1928, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Dhanbari, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr, C.I.E., and the two Hon'ble Ministers and 67 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Charitable dispensaries in thana headquarters in Rangpur.

*50. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health), be pleased to state the names of the police-station headquarters in the district of Rangpur which are still without a charitable dispensary?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any amount available for distribution to different districts for the establishment of new dispensaries?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of setting apart a certain amount for this purpose in the next budget?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH) (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (a) A list of the police-station headquarters in the district of Rangpur which are without a charitable dispensary is placed on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

List referred to in the answer to clause (a) of starred question No. 50 showing police-station headquarters in the district of Rangpur which are without a charitable dispensary.

(1) Pirgacha, (2) Kaunia, (3) Kotwali, (4) Kaliganj, (5) Hatibandha, (6) Kishoreganj, (7) Saidpur, (8) Lalmonirhat, (9) Fulbari, and (10) Fulchari.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZ-UL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what circumstances this amount of money will be available for the district boards of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I am afraid I do not quite follow what the hon'ble member means by "under what circumstances."

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZ-UL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any amount available for distribution to different districts for the establishment of new dispensaries?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Yes.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZ-UL HAQUE: How can that money be available?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: If applications be made, we shall deal with them.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZ-UL HAQUE: Is it essential that the district boards must spend a certain amount of money before this money is made available to them?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The amount is Rs. 500 for each thana dispensary and Rs. 250 for each village dispensary. Naturally that does not cover the entire amount and the district boards have to make up the balance.

Cholera vaccine, insufficient supply for Nadia.

*51. **Mr. A. C. BANERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health), be pleased to state whether it is a fact that owing to insufficiency of supply of cholera vaccine, the District Board of Nadia could not undertake the vaccination of a large number of villagers in the district?

(b) What was the cause of the shortage and who was responsible for it?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (a) When the recent epidemic of cholera broke out, there was a very large and unexpected demand for cholera vaccine from Nadia and other districts, and it was not possible fully to comply with all requisitions at once.

(b) The shortage was due to the fact that the Government Laboratory which manufactures anti-cholera vaccine had only been working for a few weeks when the epidemic broke out, and it took time to secure increased output and a supply of vaccine from other sources. The extent of the demand was quite unprecedented and could not possibly have been foreseen, so no individual can be held to blame.

Mr. G. MORGAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government Laboratory works all the year round, or only at stated periods?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The Government Laboratory works all the year round, but as I have already stated it was started only recently; it is now working and producing its full output. But even that was not quite enough and we had to get our vaccine from other parts of India.

Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

*52. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(i) whether there is any provision for transferring Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies from one division to another;

(*ii*) whether it is the policy of the Government to allow these officers to be the permanent incumbents of their respective posts; and

(*iii*) whether these Assistant Registrars are as a rule recruited from the Provincial Executive Service of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any special reason for allowing the present Assistant Registrars to have continued in their posts?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) and (*b*) Yes: but the question of the continuation of the present system is under consideration.

Legislation on line of Calcutta Rent Act.

*53. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the number of ejectment suits against tenants filed in the Calcutta Small Causes Court since the expiry of the Calcutta Rent Act, 1920 (Bengal Act III of 1920), on the 31st of March, 1927?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the advisability of revising the said Act or of undertaking fresh legislation on similar lines?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) 562.

(*b*) No.

Serampore Weaving Institute.

*54. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state how many of—

(*i*) the teaching staff,

(*ii*) the ministerial officers, and

(*iii*) the menials,

of the Serampore Weaving Institute have been dismissed or suspended during the tenure of office of the present Principal?

(*b*) What are the grounds of such dismissal or suspension in each case?

(*c*) Who took the initiative in these cases?

(*d*) Is there any case of a teacher, ministerial officer or a menial of the Institute at present pending a decision under notice of discharge, dismissal or suspension?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason in each case?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) and (*e*) The store-keeper of the Institute has been served with a notice of discharge on the ground of inefficiency.

Statement referred to in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of starred question No. 54.

(*a*) Staff.	(*b*) Grounds of dismissal or suspension.	(*c*) Initiative taken by—
(i) *Teaching staff.*		
(1) Dismissal, 2 (two)	(1) Inefficiency, negligence and misconduct.	Principal, Government Weaving Institute, Serampore.
	(2) Misconduct and for inciting the boys to cause trouble	Ditto.
(2) Suspension, 2 (two)	(1) Criminal charge brought against him.*	Director of Industries, Bengal.
	(2) Worthless and unreliable.†	Peripatetic Weaving Instructor, Malda, his immediate superior.
(ii) *Ministerial staff.*		
(1) Dismissal, nil.		
(2) Suspension, nil.		
(iii) *Menial staff.*		
(1) Dismissal, 1 (one) ..	Dismissed for theft of Government money.	Principal, Government Weaving Institute, Serampore.
(2) Suspension, nil.		

*Honourably acquitted by the Court and reinstated.
†Subsequently reinstated.

Proclamation fee realised in the courts of the Munsifs at Kurigram.

*55. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that in the courts of the Munsifs at Kurigram a proclamation fee of Re. 1 is realised with the petition of attachment of movables?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that this realisation is in contravention of the High Court Circular Rule which requires the payment of such fee only after attachment and only in cases where the value of the property attached is considered to exceed rupees twenty?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the money realised by the aforesaid courts as proclamation fee is at all refunded where the movable attached is sold at or below rupees twenty?

(*d*) Is the practice of realising the proclamation fee before the attachment of the movables followed in any other court in the district of Rangpur?

(*e*) Has not the practice been recently introduced into the Kurigram courts?

(*f*) If so, what is the date of the introduction of the practice?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Re. 1 as proclamation fee is realised with the execution petition for attachment of movables unless the value of the property to be attached is alleged by the decree-holder not to exceed twenty rupees.

(*b*) The realisation of the fees is made in strict observance to Rule 91, Chapter I, page 30, High Courts General Rules and Circular Orders (Civil).

(*c*) Under the High Court circulars the refund of such fees will depend upon the discretion of the courts.

(*d*) This practice is also followed in the Munsif's 1st Court, Sadar.

(*e*) and (*f*) This practice was introduced in the latter part of 1919.

Area of the land acquired for the Government Press at Alipore.

*56. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) the exact area of the plot of land acquired for the Government Press at Alipore; and

(*ii*) the area of the plot actually used for the purpose of the Press building?

(*b*) Is it a fact that at least three-fourths of the land is lying unused for the purposes of the Press and is being devoted to the cultivation of cauliflowers, plantains, flowers, etc.?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the major portion of the building of the Press lies unoccupied and unused?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*) (*i*) 12 bighas 13,659 square feet.

(*ii*) The area covered by the Press buildings is 5 bighas 8,924 square feet.

(*b*) The area of the land not covered by buildings, walls, paths and drains is 4 bighas 3,112 square feet, which is less than one-third of the land acquired. A reference is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 17 asked by Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray on the 23rd August, 1927.

(*c*) No.

Number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

*57. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the present number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Schools in this province?

(*b*) How many of each of these ranks are—

(*i*) Moslems; and

(*ii*) Hindus?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to starred question No. 57 showing the present number of higher inspecting officers, Hindus and Moslems.

(*1*) Divisional Inspectors of Schools—1 Hindu and 2 Moslems.

(*2*) Second Inspectors of Schools—1 Hindu and 7 Moslems.

(*3*) Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education—5 Moslems.

(*4*) District Inspectors of Schools—22 Hindus and 6 Moslems.

(*5*) Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools—37 Hindus and 24 Moslems.

(*6*) Sub-Inspectors of Schools—124 Hindus and 119 Moslems.

Pay and prospects of the ministerial officers in Bengal.

*58. **Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 4 on the 13th December, 1927, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether the Government have now arrived at any decision regarding the improvement of pay and prospects of the ministerial officers in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, what is the decision?

(*c*) If no decision has been arrived at, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the delay?

(*d*) When is a final decision of the question likely to be expected?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*), (*c*) and (*d*) A reference is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 3, asked by Maulvi Shamsur Rahman on the 7th February, 1928.

(*b*) Decisions have been reached on the following points:—

(*i*) Orders have issued discontinuing, as far as possible, frequent transfers among the offices of Superintendents of Police.

(*ii*) No action is considered necessary as to the proportion of Upper Division posts in the Civil Courts and in the offices of the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police.

(*iii*) The leave reserve in Police offices has been increased.

(*iv*) Discussion of the representations of accounts clerks in the Police offices has been deferred for the present on administrative grounds.

(*v*) No action is considered necessary on the representations of ministerial officers in the Forest Deparment.

Imperial Service officers in the Sundarbans Forest Division.

*59. **Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Forests) be pleased to state whether the number of Imperial Service officers of the Forest Department under the Government of Bengal has been increased in the Sundarbans Division during the last 5 years?

(*b*) If so, by how many and for what reasons has the increase been made?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (FORESTS) (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari): (*a*) No: but 3 extra men are at present posted there temporarily.

(*b*) Reasons: revision of the working plans.

Applications made before the full bench in the Presidency Small Causes Court.

*60. **Mr. E. T. McCLUSKIE:** With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 64 on the 14th December, 1927, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each of the years 1924, 1925 and 1926—

(*i*) how many applications were made before the full bench in the Presidency Small Causes Court;

(*ii*) how many of those applications were admitted; and

(*iii*) how many of the admitted applications were rejected after contest?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to starred question No. 60.

	1924.	1925.	1926.
(*i*)	826	675	452
(*ii*)	400	282	138
(*iii*)	252	258	130

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Typists and copyists of courts.

44. **Maulvi KADER BAKSH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government for bettering the present condition of the typists and copyists?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when a final decision is expected?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) The earnings of typists and copyists are being examined, but no scheme has been framed yet.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Unemployment problem in Bengal.

45. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of employed and unemployed graduates and under-graduates in this Presidency?

(*b*) If no such figures are available, are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry and preparing a list of such persons?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have taken any, and, if so, what steps to solve the problem of unemployment in this Presidency?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) No such figures are available and, in the absence of a special agency for the purpose, it is not possible to prepare a list of employed and unemployed graduates and under-graduates in this Presidency.

(*c*) Yes. A committee was appointed in 1922 for investigation into the question of unemployment amongst educated middle classes and for suggesting remedial measures. The recommendations made in its report were considered by Government, and a statement showing the decision of Government thereon is laid on the library table.

Mr. P. N. CUHA: Does not the Hon'ble Minister think that the appointment of a special agency is really necessary in view of the importance of the problem?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I do not think that a special agency will solve the problem. We all have a general idea that the number of unemployed men is very large and the employment of a special agency will mean the expenditure of money without getting any adequate return.

Beggar problem.

46. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any, and, if so, what steps to grapple with the beggar problem of Calcutta as well as other parts of the Presidency?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of introducing *charka* amongst those people who, by reason of physical infirmity, are unable to earn their living by hard manual labour, and have therefore to take recourse to begging?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Government are of opinion as a result of inquiries made that no special measures are needed to deal with the beggar problem outside Calcutta. In 1920 Government appointed a committee to make recommendations for dealing with the problem in Calcutta. The committee submitted its report in the same year with a large number of recommendations. Government were unable to put all these into effect, but decided in the first place that there should be an infirmary for treatment of diseased beggars to be maintained at the expense of the Corporation. The matter is still under correspondence between the Corporation and Government.

(*b*) This will be considered if any institution is established in the future for the housing of beggars who are capable of light labour.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by the word "institution" a Government or private institution is meant?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Any institution, whether Government or private.

Administrator-General and Deputy Administrator-General, Bengal.

47. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is any bar to the appointment of a native of India as the Administrator-General of Bengal or the Deputy Administrator-General of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why no native of India has ever held such an appointment?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for—

(*i*) appointing Mr. Carey Morgan as Additional Administrator-General of Bengal; and

(*ii*) not appointing Mr. Surita as Additional Deputy Administrator-General of Bengal?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what will be the additional cost imposed on the tax-payers by the appointment of Mr. Carey Morgan as Additional Administrator-General of Bengal?

(*e*) For how long has this appointment been sanctioned?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) There is no such bar.

(*b*) Until 1917 the officer was under the Government of India. When it was transferred to the Government of Bengal, Mr. Kinney, who was Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee, was on leave, and no one was acting for him. On his return he was appointed to officiate as Administrator-General and Official Trustee and for a time there continued to be no Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee. It was found to be impossible to cope with the work without a second officer, and in 1919 Mr. Carey Morgan, who had previously worked as Deputy Administrator-General, was appointed to officiate as Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee on his release from military service. Both Mr. Kinney and Mr. Carey Morgan were subsequently confirmed in their respective appointments.

(*c*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Mr. Alexander Kinney, the permanent Administrator-General and Official Trustee, was deputed to Hongkong in connection with the affairs of a particular trust; during his absence on deputation Mr. C. Carey Morgan, who is the permanent Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee, was appointed as Additional Administrator-General and Official Trustee to carry on the duties of the Administrator-General and Official Trustee. He had previously officiated in that capacity. Mr. Surita, an outsider, who had officiated as Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee on a previous occasion, was appointed in Mr. C. Carey Morgan's place as the Deputy Administrator-General and Official Trustee. It would have been unusual and uneconomical to appoint Mr. Surita over Mr. Carey Morgan's head.

(*d*) The deputation caused an extra cost of Rs. 3,418-11 to the tax-payer, but as the result of the deputation, two new estates have been taken over by the Administrator-General and Official Trustee, the fees from which will amount to Rs. 16,498-8, so that the tax-payer makes a nett gain.

(*e*) The appointment continued from 10th June, 1927, to 23rd August, 1927.

Registration of sale certificates prepared in the Kurigram civil courts.

48. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the civil courts maintain any register for the entry of stamp papers filed for writing instruments of sale certificate thereon;

(*ii*) whether the civil courts of Kurigram systematically send up copies of the draft sale certificates to the nearest sub-registry office for registration of the same;

(*iii*) how many draft sale certificates have been prepared in the Munsifs' courts at Kurigram during the last 3 years;

(*iv*) how many copies thereof have been transmitted to the Sub-Registrars' offices for registration; and

(*v*) whether any account of the transmission of the copies of draft sale certificates is preserved in the aforesaid courts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*v*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the same have been verified by a reference to the papers of the Sub-Registrars' offices concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) (*i*) The dates of filing requisite stamp are noted in Col. 7 of the prescribed register (Form M. 57) as shown on page 99 H.C.C.O., Part II. The value of the stamp is not noted.

(*ii*) It appears from the reports of the Munsifs, Kurigram, that copies of sale certificates are systematically sent to the registration offices concerned.

(*iii*) 3,314 draft sale certificates were prepared during the last 3 years.

(*iv*) 2,009 copies of sale certificates were transmitted under Rule 115, Chapter I, page 41 of H.C.C.O., Civil. Copies of sale certificates are not sent to registry office until the purchaser tenders the necessary stamps and the original certificates drawn up.

(*v*) Col. 9 of the prescribed register (Form No. 57) quoted above shows the dates of sending copies to the registration office. No other separate account is kept.

(*b*) There is no arrangement for any such verification as is contemplated in the question and none is required by the Circular Orders.

Junior madrasahs at Mahisar and Sheikdighi in the Kandi subdivision.

40. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the junior madrasahs at Mahisar in the Kandi subdivision and Sheikdighi in the Jangipur subdivision of the Murshidabad district are getting any grant-in-aid from the Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The junior madrasah at Mahisar in the Kandi subdivision is in receipt of a grant of Rs. 50 a month from Government. The Sheikdighi Madrasah in the Jangipur subdivision of the Murshidabad district is yet unaided.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is going to provide more money for the madrasah?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: As soon as the budget is passed, Government will provide more money for grants-in-aid to madrasahs and the case of Sheikdighi Madrasah will receive due consideration.

Mortality from malaria, cholera and small-pox in Faridpur.

50. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to lay on the table a statement for each of the last 5 years showing separately for each subdivision how many people died of—

(*a*) Malaria;

(*b*) Cholera; and

(*c*) Small-pox

in the district of Faridpur?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 50 showing mortality from malaria, cholera and small-pox in each subdivision of the district of Faridpur during the years 1922 to 1926.

Malaria.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
1. Sadar subdivision ..	8,251	9,869	10,985	9,703	8,628
2. Goalundo subdivision ..	5,637	6,323	7,393	7,578	5,993
3. Madaripur subdivision ..	15,507	15,063	17,658	15,009	13,240
4. Gopalganj subdivision ..	8,365	7,297	8,684	9,166	7,864

Cholera.

		1922	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
1. Sadar subdivision	..	497	235	434	248	1,020
2. Goalundo subdivision	..	71	397	178	101	1,472
3. Madaripur subdivision	..	947	438	388	866	1,807
4. Gopalganj subdivision	..	690	539	227	613	855

Small-pox.

1. Sadar subdivision	..	9	1	4	42	18
2. Goalundo subdivision	..	2	1	..	55	32
3. Madaripur subdivision	..	13	3	4	55	32
4. Gopalganj subdivision	..	65	13	9	68	112

Realisation of audit fees from liquidated societies.

51. Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether audit fees are realised from liquidated societies?

(*b*) If so, on what principles are they realised?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the registration of a society is cancelled as soon as an order for its liquidation is passed?

(*d*) Under what law are audit fees realised from such a cancelled society?

(*e*) Is it a fact that sometimes audit fees are realised from the reserve funds of such liquidated societies, there being no other assets to the credit of the society?

(*f*) Is it a fact that further interest is not levied from the debtors of a liquidated society and the Central Bank also does not get any further interest from such liquidated society?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of discontinuing the realisation of audit fees from liquidated societies?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The audit of the accounts of a liquidated society is necessary in order to ascertain whether the proceedings are in order and the accounts have been properly kept. The audit fees are thus a charge for necessary service, and are therefore essentially a part of the cost of liquidation.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Section 42 (2) (*d*) of the Co-operative Societies Act.

(*e*) Yes: the proper function of a reserve fund is to meet so far as possible all the liabilities of the society in the event of liquidation.

(*f*) Yes, but when there are surplus assets, the Central Bank is paid interest from the date of liquidation to that of payment.

(*g*) No.

Ayla River.

52. Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ayla River in the subdivision of Patuakhali is being silted up and in consequence its connected khals and channels are also dried up?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Ayla River was the only means of communication by launch and boats from the headquarters of Patuakhali to the Barguna and Betagi thanas of the subdivision?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the people of those thanas are in great difficulties to come to Patuakhali for litigation?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of re-excavating the Ayla River or open any khal or channel to make the river deeper and wider for the convenience of the people and for facility of trade?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari): (*a*) Yes. Of the 3 branch khals, Baidyapasha is silting, but the other two (the Ayla and Majidbaria) are in fair condition.

(*b*) The river in question is the shortest water course connecting the 3 stations—Patuakhali, Barguna and Betagi.

(*c*) This department has no information.

(*d*) The question of dredging the river has been examined and found impracticable as the dredged channel is not likely to maintain itself owing to its being the meeting ground of the tides from the rivers Ayla, Kagdone and Beghai.

Ministerial officers and copyists.

53. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether a deputation waited upon him from the ministerial officers to represent their grievances; and

(*ii*) whether any decision has been arrived at in the matter; if so, what?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of improving the prospects of the copyists?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Reference is invited to the reply given to a starred question put by Srijut Nogendra Nath Sen at this meeting, which indicates the decisions reached on certain points. The remaining questions are still under consideration in the various departments of Government.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

Steps to arrest the spread of cholera in certain districts.

54. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) aware that the object of combating or preventing the spread of cholera epidemic has failed in certain districts on account of the delay made by local authorities either in supplying anti-cholera vaccines or in sending doctors in time?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Anti-cholera vaccine is supplied to local authorities by Government free of charge.

When the recent epidemic of cholera broke out, there was for some time a shortage of vaccine for which the local authorities were not to blame. The Government laboratory for manufacture of the vaccine had only been working for a short time and was unable at first to cope with the demand which was very much greater than could possibly have been foreseen. In respect of the despatch of medical men, local authorities in general did all that might reasonably be expected of them with the staff and funds at their disposal.

Jurisdiction under the proviso to section 3 of the Indian Companies Act not conferred on district courts.

55. Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Commerce be pleased to state what district courts, if any, in Bengal have been invested with powers under the proviso to section 3 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913)?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware of the extreme hardships caused to mufassal companies and the general public owing to the non-investment of district courts with such powers?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of investing all district courts with such powers?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*) None.

(*b*) No such hardships have been brought to the notice of Government.

(*c*) No.

Searching fee in the registration office and in courts.

56. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education (Registration) be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the searching fee in the registration office is one rupee; and

(*ii*) whether such searching fee in the civil and criminal courts is five annas only?

(*b*) If so, what is the reason for this difference?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a searching fee of one rupee is realised for the copy of a document even when all necessary informations are supplied?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the fee is charged even when no search is required?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the practice in civil and criminal courts is different?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (REGISTRATION) (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) Fees payable for searching the indexes and inspecting the registers are given in Article F of the table of fees under the Indian Registration Act, a copy of which is laid on the table.

It will be seen that the amount of searching fee payable varies in different cases.

(*ii*) Rules on the subject of payment of searching fees in the civil and criminal courts are contained in Rule 279 of the Bengal Records Manual, 1917, and in rules 8 and 1, pages 123 and 120 of Volume I of the General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court, Civil and Criminal, respectively. Copies of these rules are laid on the table.

(*b*) Registration records are of permanent character, and copies of these records are much in demand. With a view to ensure proper care in the handling of these records and to prevent bad usage, a higher searching fee has been prescribed for these records.

(*c*) and (*d*) According to the rules, when the information necessary is given in the application, no fee for searching the index is levied, but a fee for the inspection of the register in which the document is copied is still due, as the date of registration, the number of words and the stamp value have to be ascertained before the copying charges (including the stamp on the copy) can be assessed.

(*e*) Yes.

Article F referred to in the answer to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 56.

F. (*1*) Fees payable for searching the indexes and inspecting the registers shall be as follows:—

	Rs.	A.
(*i*) For the first year for each entry or document for which search of the indexes of a specified office is made ...	1	0
(*ii*) For every other year as aforesaid ...	0	8
(*iii*) For each register book 1, 2, 3 or 4 inspected ...	1	0

Provided that—

(*a*) no fee for the search or inspection of the registers of any one office in respect of any one entry or document shall exceed Rs. 10;

(*b*) no fees for the search or inspection of the registers of any one office in respect of any number of entries or documents relating to one and the same property shall exceed Rs. 20, and

(*c*) no fee for search shall be payable if in any application for a copy of an entry or for inspection of any entry, the nature of the document, the date of registration, the register and volume in which it is copied and its number in such volume are shown.

(*2*) Every application for the grant of a certified copy, except at the time of the registration of a document, shall, subject to proviso (*c*) above, be accompanied by the fee prescribed for searching the indexes.

A.

Rules referred to in the answer to clause (a) (ii) of unstarred question No. 56.

THE BENGAL RECORDS MANUAL, 1917.

279. The ordinary searching fee shall be uniformly four annas for all cases, leviable in adhesive court-fee stamps. This stamp is to be affixed to the application in addition to the one-anna stamp in the case of application for information and the two-anna stamp in the case of applications for copies required under Rule 278 before being presented to the proper officer. One searching fee only shall be charged for any number of copies taken from the same record and included in the same application.

B.

General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Appellate Side (Civil), Volume I (pages 123-124).

8. A fee of four annas shall be charged for searching for all documents, of which copies, whether certified or uncertified, are required. [*Vide* section 63 of Act I of 1872 (The Indian Evidence Act).] This fee shall be levied by means of a court-fee stamp to be affixed to all applications for information or copies, except such copies as the law requires to be given free of cost. The stamp shall, in the case of applications for copies in Form No. (M) 181 in Volume II, be in addition to the one-anna stamp required under Article I (*a*), Schedule II, of the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, on such applications. In the case of applications for information the searching-fee shall be the only fee required to be affixed to Form No. (M) 180 in Volume II. One searching-fee only shall be charged for any number of copies taken from the same record and included in the same application. No searching-fee shall be charged in respect of copies of papers which have not been deposited on the racks of the record-room.

Note 1.—The searching-fee is intended to meet all cases of search, no distinction being made between searches which entail a small amount, and those which require a large amount of labour.

Note 2.—As regards applications for copies under the Court-fees Act, 1870, Schedule II, Article I (*a*), paragraph 5, only one application with a single court-fee stamp of one-anna is necessary when a copy is applied for of any number of documents in the same record; but when copies are required of documents in more than one record, there must be separate applications with a separate stamp for each.

Note 3.—In connection with applications for search for documents, and the like, in a Collector's office, the searching-fee should be remitted by the civil court to the Collector in court-fee stamps and not in cash.

C.

General Rules and Circular Orders of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Appellate Side (Criminal), Volume I (page 120).

1. A fee of four annas shall be charged for searching for all documents of which copies are applied for, whether certified or uncertified. [*Vide* section 63 of Act I of 1872 (The Indian Evidence Act).] This fee shall be levied by means of a court-fee stamp to be affixed to all applications for information or copies, except such copies as the law requires to be given free of cost. The stamp shall, in the

case of applications for copies in Form No. (M) 116, Volume II, be in addition to the two-anna stamp required under Article I (*a*) of Schedule II of the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by the Bengal Court-fees (Amendment) Act, 1922, on such applications. In the case of applications for information, the searching-fee shall be the only fee required to be affixed to Form No. (M) 115 *ibid*. One searching-fee only shall be charged for any number of copies taken from the same record and included in the same application. No searching-fee shall be charged in respect of copies of papers which have not been deposited on the rack of the record-room.

Note 1.—The searching-fee is intended to meet all cases of search; no distinction being made between searches which entail a small amount, and those which require a large amount of labour. (H. C. 881, 1883.)

Note 2.—As regards applications for copies under Act VII of 1870, Schedule II, Article I (*a*), paragraph 5, as amended by the Bengal Court-fees (Amendment) Act, 1922, only one application with a single court-fee stamp of two annas is necessary when a copy is applied for of any number of documents on the same record: but when copies are required of documents in more than one record, there must be separate applications with a separate stamp for each. (H. C. 1187, 1881, and 1749, 1882.)

Moslems and non-Moslems in the ranks of Sub-Inspector and Inspector of Police.

57. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, and year by year, since the reconstitution of Bengal in 1912—

(*i*) the number of Moslem and non-Moslem Sub-Inspectors of Police appointed by (*a*) promotion from the grade of Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and (*b*) new recruitment; and

(*ii*) the number of Moslem and non-Moslem Sub-Inspectors of Police promoted to the rank of Inspectors?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): Three statements are laid on the table. Statements B and C do not give the desired information district by district because, in the matter of direct appointment to the rank of Sub-Inspectors the information cannot be obtained without an expenditure of time and trouble incommensurate with its value, and in the matter of promotion to the rank of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors are borne on a provincial list.

Statement A referred to in the reply to clause (i) (a) of unstarred question No. 57 showing the number of Moslem and non-Moslem Assistant Sub-Inspectors promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspectors. (The appointment of Assistant Sub-Inspectors was created in 1920, vide G. O. No. 1891 P. J., dated the 1st May, 1920.)

Year.	District.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
1920	Faridpur	....	1	1
1920	Bakarganj	....	2	2
1920	Noakhali	....	1	1
1920	Mymensingh	....	2	2
1920	Tippera	....	1	1
1920	Dacca	....	2	2
1920	Howrah	....	2	2
1920	Birbhum	....	1	1
1920	Hooghly	....	1	1
1920	Midnapore	....	2	2
1920	Burdwan	....	1	1
1920	C. I. D.	....	1	1
1920	Pabna	....	1	1
1920	Darjeeling	....	3	3
1920	Jalpaiguri	1	....	1
1920	Rangpur	....	1	1
1920	Sealdah G. R. P.	....	1	1
1920	Jessore	....	3	3
1920	Murshidabad	....	1	1
1920	Nadia	....	1	1
1920	24-Parganas	....	2	2
	Total	1	30	31
1921	24-Parganas	1	1	2
1921	Birbhum	....	1	1
1921	Burdwan	....	1	1
1921	Darjeeling	....	1	1
1921	Malda	1	....	1
1921	Chittagong	....	1	1
1921	Mymensingh	....	1	1
	Total	2	6	8
1922	Khulna	....	1	1
1922	East Indian Railway, Howrah	....	1	1
1922	Pabna	....	1	1
1922	Jalpaiguri	1	....	1
1922	P. T. College, Sardah	....	1	1
1922	Noakhali	....	1	1
1922	Tippera	1	....	1
1922	Mymensingh	....	1	1
	Total	2	6	8

Year.	District.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
1923 ..	Sealdah G. R. P. ..	....	1	1
1923 ..	Nadia	....	2	2
1923 ..	Khulna	....	1	1
1923 ..	24-Parganas	....	1	1
1923 ..	Jessore	....	1	1
1923 ..	Hooghly	1	....	1
1923 ..	Midnapore	....	1	1
1923 ..	East Indian Railway, Howrah	....	1	1
1923 ..	Bankura	....	1	1
1923 ..	Howrah	....	1	1
1923 ..	Jalpaiguri	....	1	1
1923 ..	Darjeeling	....	2	2
1923 ..	Rajshahi	....	1	1
1923 ..	Faridpur	....	2	2
1923 ..	Noakhali	....	1	1
1923 ..	Bakarganj	....	1	1
1923 ..	Dacca	....	2	2
1923 ..	Mymensingh	....	2	2
1923 ..	Tippera	....	2	2
	Total ..	1	24	25
1924 ..	I. B.	....	1	1
1924 ..	Mymensingh	1	2	3
1924 ..	Dacca	....	2	2
1924 ..	Bakarganj	1	2	3
1924 ..	Faridpur	1	....	1
1924 ..	Chittagong	....	1	1
1924 ..	Pabna . ..	1	1	2
1924 ..	Rajshahi	....	2	2
1924 ..	Rangpur	....	1	1
1924 ..	Jalpaiguri	....	1	1
1924 ..	P. T. College, Sardah ..	....	1	1
1924 ..	Darjeeling	....	1	1
1924 ..	Jessore	....	1	1
1924 ..	24-Parganas	....	1	1
1924 ..	Khulna .. .	....	1	1
1924 ..	Nadia	....	1	1
1924 ..	Howrah	....	2	2
1924 ..	Hooghly	....	1	1
1924 ..	Midnapore	....	2	2
1924 ..	Bankura	....	1	1
1924 ..	East Indian Railway, Howrah	....	1	1
	Total ..	4	26	30
1925 ..	24-Parganas	....	1	1
1925 ..	Jessore	....	1	1
1925 ..	Khulna	....	1	1
1925 ..	Nadia	....	2	2
1925 ..	Murshidabad	....	1	1
1925 ..	Howrah	1	....	1
1925 ..	East Indian Railway, Howrah	1	1	2
1925 ..	Midnapore	....	1	1
1925 ..	Birbhum	....	1	1
1925 ..	Hooghly	....	1	1
1925 ..	Asansol	....	1	1
1925 ..	Burdwan	....	1	1
1925 ..	Jalpaiguri . ..	2	....	2
1925 ..	P. T. College, Sardah ..	....	1	1
1925 ..	Bogra	....	1	1

Year.	District.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
1925 ..	Rangpur	....	1	1
1925 ..	Rajshahi	....	1	1
1925 ..	Malda	....	1	1
1925 ..	Dacca	....	1	1
1925 ..	Tippera	....	2	2
1925 ..	Mymensingh	1	....	1
1925 ..	Faridpur	1	1	2
1925 ..	Bakarganj	....	1	1
1925 ..	Noakhali	....	1	1
1925 ..	C. I. D.	....	1	1
	Total ..	6	24	30
1926 ..	Murshidabad	....	1	1
1926 ..	24-Parganas	....	2	2
1926 ..	Sealdah Railway Police ..	....	1	1
1926 ..	Khulna	....	1	1
1926 ..	Jessore	....	3	3
1926 ..	Midnapore	1	1	2
1926 ..	Bankura	....	2	2
1926 ..	Howrah	....	1	1
1926 ..	Mymensingh	1	2	3
1926 ..	Dacca	1	1	2
1926 ..	Tippera	1	....	1
1926 ..	Faridpur	....	2	2
1926 ..	Bakarganj	....	2	2
1926 ..	Dinajpur	....	2	2
1926 ..	Pabna	....	1	1
1926 ..	P. T. College, Sardah ..	....	1	1
1926 ..	Jalpaiguri	1	1	2
1926 ..	Malda	....	1	1
	Total ..	5	25	30
1927 ..	24-Parganas	....	1	1
1927 ..	Khulna	....	1	1
1927 ..	Nadia	1	....	1
1927 ..	Eastern Bengal Railway, Sealdah	....	1	1
1927 ..	Howrah	....	2	2
1927 ..	Burdwan	....	1	1
1927 ..	Midnapore	....	1	1
1927 ..	Bankura	....	1	1
1927 ..	Birbhum	1	....	1
1927 ..	Hooghly	....	1	1
1927 ..	Pabna	1	....	1
1927 ..	Malda	1	....	1
1927 ..	Rangpur	....	1	1
1927 ..	Darjeeling	....	1	1
1927 ..	P. T. College, Sardah ..	....	2	2
1927 ..	Eastern Bengal and Assam-Bengal Railways, Saidpur	....	1	1
1927 ..	River Police	....	1	1
1927 ..	Faridpur	....	1	1
1927 ..	Chittagong	....	2	2
1927 ..	Noakhali	....	1	1
1927 ..	Tippera	....	2	2
1927 ..	Mymensingh	....	2	2
1927 ..	Dacca	....	2	2
1927 ..	C. I. D.	....	1	1
	Total ..	4	26	30

Statement B referred to in the reply to clause (i) (b) of unstarred question No. 57 showing the number of Moslem and non-Moslem Sub-Inspectors of Police recruited direct.

Year.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Total.
1	2	3	4
1912	44	57	101
1913	57	51	108
1914	61	47	108
1915	54	52	106
1916	58	67	125
1917	90	93	183
1918	86	97	183
1919	37	40	77
1920	No direct recruitment was made in this year.		
1921	5	5	10
1922	3	4	7
1923	3	4	7
1924	12	13	25
1925	15	15	30
1926	15	15	30
1927	15	15	30

Statement C referred to in the reply to clause (ii) of unstarred question No. 57 showing the number of Moslem and non-Moslem Sub-Inspectors promoted to the rank of Inspectors.

Year.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Total.
1	2	3	4
1912	....	....	....
(After the reconstitution of Bengal.)			
1913	1	16	17
1914	6	19	25
1915	2	8	10
1916	2	32	34
1917	2	34	36
1918	2	26	28
1919	4	13	17
1920	....	9	9
1921	....	4	4
1922	....	1	1
1923	....	2	2
1924	3	19	22
1925	5	30	35
1926	5	18	23
1927	5	17	22

Medical School at Berhampore.

58. Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of the Medical School at Berhampore being opened next year?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the delay?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) Every effort will be made to open the Medical School in July, 1928. The delay is due to lack of complete detailed plans and estimates.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Demand for Grant.

43—Famine Relief and Insurance.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Famine Relief and Insurance" for granting relief to people affected by the scarcity.

A memorandum has been circulated amongst the members of this Council explaining the present position. Out of the sum of Rs. 50,000 voted by the Legislative Council sums of Rs. 16,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 have been advanced to different district boards. These make a total of Rs. 38,000 leaving a balance of Rs. 12,000 in the present year's budget. A further demand of Rs. 45,000 has already been received from the districts of Murshidabad and Nadia. If the present demand is voted, this will give a total of Rs. 52,000 which will leave a balance of Rs. 7,000 for unforeseen demands.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: In the absence of my friend Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee, I beg to move that the demand of the Hon'ble Mr. Marr be reduced by Re. 1. As my friend who gave notice of this motion stated, this is done simply to express the opinion of the House that the amount asked for is very small considering the requirements. I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 40,000 under the head "43—Famine Relief and Insurance" be reduced by Re. 1 (as a token cut in order to draw attention to the fact that the sum is utterly inadequate).

[3-15 P.M.

There is no gainsaying the fact that distress in more or less acute form is prevailing in several parts of the province. Government's policy has been laid down that they will protect every one from death due to starvation, but before the man reaches the stage of death, I claim that Government ought to take steps to see that the people are saved from death itself. Crops have failed in Western and Northern Bengal. There was a resolution to that effect which would have been discussed in this House but for want of quorum—except the Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Mr. Moberly, the Government benches were entirely empty. I submit that Government have not taken sufficient steps to inquire and find out the actual state of affairs in the rural areas. Rural areas have always been neglected in the past, and will continue to be neglected in the future, the policy of Government being to look after the cities. Agriculture is the main industry in this province—I may say in this country, but it is the most uncared for department in the administrative machinery. But that is a question besides the mark. I submit that much more money is required for the relief of distress and famine. It is very difficult to convince Government that there is actual famine. I wrote to the Hon'ble Revenue Member about the state of affairs in a certain part of the district to which I belong, and I received a reply from the Revenue Secretary in which he said "with reference to your letter Government is not aware of any distress prevailing in that part of the country," although Government was in close communication with the local authorities about this affair. I have seen with my own eyes and I have met people who have made applications to the Revenue Officer and Collector for relief, and if Government is not aware, in spite of this close communication with the people, I can only say that I pity the Government for its ignorance. Relief is wanted in every direction. In the first place relief works should be started, in the second place, there should be gratuitous relief given to those absolutely in need, and thirdly, loans on reasonable terms ought to be given to the people now in want of funds. I think the state of affairs that prevails in my district is the same in many other districts, and if I speak of the conditions in my district it is simply because I am personally aware of the facts there. The situation is that people who own lands and who have agricultural lands are now in distress because crops have failed, and it cannot be denied that our agricultural population from year to year have very little margin left to them to meet the scarcity of famine; naturally they are now in want and their number is very large, and our countrymen, the money-lenders, are taking advantage of the situation and demanding exhorbitant rates of interest even to the extent of 30 per cent., and in some cases more than that. Under the circumstances it will be a sheer act of mercy and I think it is also the duty

of Government to come to the relief of these people and to give them money on reasonable terms and on sufficient security. In some cases, I was told the other day in my district that relief works were open, but nobody came to work at the rates offered by the Government or the district board. The rates offered for the test work are so ridiculous that people could not be expected to accept them. Eight or 10 pice a day offered for a day's labour when rice is selling at 5 annas a seer is absolutely useless, because if a man worked even the whole day he could not get more than half a seer of rice. If a man cannot get more than half a seer of rice for himself and his family, where is the inducement? They are placing the rates lower and lower, and if they do not get the people to come and work, they say "there is no distress, because people will not accept relief work." I think it is a dodge of which any administration ought to be ashamed. I submit that this was an opportunity in which Government in the Revenue Department could have done a great deal of good to the community. Our irrigation tanks have silted up through the neglect of Government and the zemindars, not of the cultivators, and this is the time when action could have been taken under the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, but unfortunately the procedure laid down there is so cumbrous that no action can be taken unless a year has passed. The time is critical and I say the people have begun to die and whatever has to be done must be done now or never. The ordinary details which are associated with all Government measures should be avoided in the present instance just to save the population from distress and death.

I hope the members of the House will support my motion. If this motion is lost, I will understand that the House does not appreciate or recognise that there is distress in the country or that relief is necessary.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: I rise to support the motion of my friend Maulvi Abul Kasem. I belong to the district of Murshidabad, and I know acute distress is raging in that part of the country, and from reports I have received from other places, the same is the case in other districts as well. In my own district I have found, many persons came to get work at the Bally Bridge in order to get a living, but they had to return as there was no work there. The authorities have tried to some extent to alleviate the distress but much remains to be done, and the misfortune of the whole affair is that the business of meeting the wishes of the people and of representing their grievances rests with those persons who are in absolute want of sympathy with the masses. It is unfortunate that they are the heads of the Government who are dealing with very wide areas, they have nothing to do with the masses and know very little of the people remaining in the country. It is this to a great extent which is responsible for the way in which the affairs of the masses are looked after, and it

is this that enables the people of the country to live in distress, and particularly on this occasion when it was necessary for Government to come forward with a liberal grant, Government did nothing whatsoever. I gave notice of a resolution in this Council that Rs. 5 lakhs should be provided in the budget for the relief of famine in Murshidabad, but somehow the resolution never came up for discussion, and there was no possibility of the matter coming up again, and the replies received to the question put to the Government were not very encouraging. This is how the matter stands, and I can assure the House that the extent of the distress in Murshidabad and the neighbouring places is very great, and it is absolutely necessary that Government should come forward with a liberal grant for this purpose if it cares for the welfare of the people. It is very necessary to give gratuitous relief to the people, and also necessary to provide a large sum for the assistance of the cultivators. It is they who have to go to the money-lenders to borrow money, and we have just heard from Maulvi Abul Kasem of the very high rates of interest charged. This may mean nothing to those who live secure with fat salaries, but to those persons who have to mortgage their lands, and if that land is taken from them, it means that they and their children have to starve. I appeal to the members to see to this and to provide a sufficient sum of money for this purpose, and in order to show our displeasure of the way in which Government are acting in this matter, I appeal to the House to accept the motion that has been laid before them by Maulvi Abul Kasem.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: I am afraid I cannot see eye to eye with Maulvi Abul Kasem in the matter of this amendment. I come from Nadia where recently some famine operations have been carried on, and I speak with the experience of one who has had to do a certain amount of work in connection with this famine work. If the amendment had been differently worded, namely, that early steps should be taken for the revision of the Famine Code, I would have certainly supported him. This Code is antediluvian and antiquated, and more in keeping with the kind of work that was done in Behar, but does not at all suit the conditions and circumstances of Bengal. If in connection with this motion I can do anything, it is to draw the attention of the Government and the Hon'ble Member in charge to the fact that early steps should be taken to revise this Famine Code. There is no doubt of the fact that so far as this amount of money is concerned, it is very inadequate, but I think the mover of the motion is ignorant of the difficulties under which the famine operations in these districts are being carried out. Under the present Famine Code Government has responsibility which comes into operation at the secondary stage, only after the district board has taken up the work in its initial stage in starting test works. The difficulty which is

experienced by everybody in test works is that the Famine Code has been prepared in such a complicated manner that it is totally unsuitable to the conditions of Bengal, and it is most difficult to carry out the district board test works. I should say that what is actually necessary is not that more money should just now be paid by Government, but that Government should be in actual possession of the real facts to enable them to know the extent of famine. A certain amount of responsibility is thrown on the district boards; but they cannot take up any work under the present Famine Code because the construction of the Code is so complicated that they cannot come to any decision one way or the other. If I had an opportunity I would be able to explain in more detail how in actual practice it is very difficult to start real test works. In my own district, I know, it took the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the district board, the District Magistrate and the District Engineer about two months to find out the actual rate that should be paid in relief measures. They could not come to any definite decision and had to change their mode of operations from time to time to suit conditions—all in view of the complicated nature of the Famine Code. Therefore, so far as this amount of Rs. 40,000 is concerned, the real point is, it is not a question of so much money, but a revision of the Famine Code, and to this I would draw the immediate attention of the House. At present Government have no opportunity of knowing the real state of affairs. Therefore, it is impossible for me to support the amendment in its present form.

3-30 P.M.

Mr. S. C. MUKERJI: I am not very much concerned with the fact whether the Famine Code is complicated or not or whether it is an antediluvian document. What I am concerned with is to get a definite statement from the Hon'ble Member in charge as to the gravity of the situation and the magnitude of the scarcity that is prevailing in different parts of the province of Bengal and to know whether the facts and figures given by the hon'ble members who have spoken on the amendment are correct. Is the Hon'ble Member in possession of the facts about the actual state of things and is it a fact that hundreds and thousands of people are actually suffering from dire starvation and are faced with death? That is the question with which we are concerned. If the facts and figures given by the hon'ble members of this House are correct and if it is a fact that Rs. 40,000 is not sufficient for the purpose, then it is the bounden duty of the Government to provide for more money and save people from death.

Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: Sir, I rise to support the motion just moved by the Hon'ble Member. It is a matter of great gratification that the Hon'ble Member has

brought forth this kind of motion of public interest and utility and I express our best thanks to him for same.

I doubt not that this motion will be universally accepted by the members of the different parties. I find that my friend Mr. Abul Kasem has brought an amendment with the object of drawing the attention of the Hon'ble Member to increase the grant. I have every sympathy with the mover but considering the shortness of the time, as the financial year will be closed in the course of a month and a quarter, I think it would not be possible to spend a larger amount in the short time available, adequately and properly even if the Hon'ble Member accepts a demand for higher amounts. In that case, there would be a surplus amount left unspent at the close of the year which would lapse automatically. Under the circumstances, I think we should be content with the amount of Rs. 40,000 set apart for famine relief work for the present and we should request the Hon'ble Member to provide a suitable sum under the same head "Famine Relief Work" in the budget for the coming year; so that we can utilise the sum from April next if it be required to do so.

Sir, being one of the inhabitants of the district of Murshidabad and having some landed property in the districts of Murshidabad and Birbhum, I had occasion of visiting the affected areas of the districts. It is impossible for me to depict the sufferings of the cultivators due to the want of rain. Had there been no Famine Code and a wretched Clause, I think Famine would have already been declared in the affected areas instead of declaring scarcity only. As regards Murshidabad district, I am thankful to Mr. French, the District Magistrate for the interest he has taken in the matter. He has visited the affected areas of the locality and has made arrangements for opening out of test works for the relief of distress. The District Board of Murshidabad has advanced Rs. 1,500 for the purpose. But as the financial position of the District Board was not equal to the task and as the Government loan was not forthcoming, the District Magistrate advanced Rs. 7,500 to the Board as a temporary loan out of the Flood Relief Fund which was raised some years ago and which was lying at his disposal. Since then the Government has advanced Rs. 20,000 to the Board without interest on different dates. Though this sum has relieved the sufferings to a certain extent, it is quite inadequate to cope with the present situation and the District Board of Murshidabad in pursuance of the resolution, dated the 3rd December last, moved the Government for a further loan of Rs. 54,000.

Secondly, Sir, I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member of the Revenue Department to a certain matter. This has already been done by my colleague Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul Huq. We all know that Relief Work has been started to mitigate the sufferings of the cultivators, it would then be a great hardship to them if the

cultivators and the land owning classes were forced to pay the cost of the Settlement Operations in the districts of Murshidabad and Birbhum in this year of scarcity. Relief Operations would not be a real relief if the people have to pay this unexpected additional sum. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Member, on behalf of the tenants and the landholders, who are also affected on account of the failure of crop, to postpone the payment of the cost for the settlement operation for one year only. With these few words I beg to support the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Marr.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN: Sir, I beg to support the motion which has been moved by my hon'ble friend Maulvi Abul Kasem. We have been hearing a good deal about famine in Northern Bengal and Western Bengal, but about the situation in East Bengal we have not heard anything. So far as my knowledge goes—I belong to the Chittagong Division—owing to the recent flood in September and October a considerable damage has been done in a large area in Chittagong. That damage was on account of the stagnation of water and the water could not pass quickly owing to the zigzag course of the rivers Telparni and Konkria and the Gunaimardan Bil and that flood continued for about 15 or 16 days, as a result of which all the crops were damaged, and the people are now starving, as the price of rice has increased very considerably. During the greater portion of the year rice in Chittagong is sold at famine price. So, my submission is that this Rs. 40,000 is quite inadequate. This sum, I think, is intended for the big famines which have ravaged the districts of Murshidabad, Birbhum and other places in North and West Bengal. I submit that provision should also be made for other districts in East Bengal. With these words I submit that Rs. 40,000 is too inadequate and it ought to be considerably increased in order to meet the situation.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: Sir, I would not have thought it necessary to intervene in this debate, but for the fact that my young friend, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, has come forward in support of the Government Member, as if the Government have not got sufficient number of supporters at their command.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not intend to support the Government Member and it is not my practice to support Government at all times.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: When I have explained the position to him he will presently find whether the part attributed to him is correct or not.

If it is a part of the duty of a gentleman, who holds the title of Khan Bahadur and is a Public Prosecutor, to come forward and support the Government Members at inconvenient times, I have nothing to say. Let me remind my friend, however, that in supporting this motion, which cannot be supported by any reasonable Indian, he has rendered a great disservice to his country and to his community.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not think you are right in casting reflections upon the character of a member of this House, and I shall be glad if you will confine yourself to the amendment.

Mr. A. K. FAZL-UL HUQ: I bow to your ruling. So far as my remarks were concerned I may say that they were meant for a member of this House who is a friend, and I would ask him to take them in the spirit in which they were made. As regards this particular provision, it is not its adequacy or the inadequacy which is in question, but the apparent neglect of the Government to take note of the situation and make provision accordingly. My friend, Mr. Mukerji, seems to ask the Hon'ble Member to put before the Council facts and figures as regards the actual distress. I can almost anticipate what the Hon'ble Mr. Marr will say. I say the Hon'ble Member cannot put the correct facts and figures before the Council, because he himself is not aware of the magnitude of the distress prevailing in the country. He is in possession of those facts and figures only which have been forwarded to him through the official channels—the district officers, whose main business is to minimise as far as possible the actual state of distress prevailing in the districts. If it is admitted that there is actual distress, it becomes the bounden duty of Government to make adequate provision to meet it. I have no doubt that Government at the present moment will not be prepared to make this admission and provide more money, because its resources are swallowed up by other less important things. Sir, so far as the voting on this motion is concerned, I have got absolutely no doubt: it will be supported by the votes of the Government hirelings and it will be supported by the votes of the European members whose duty, it seems, is to support Government at all times. But I hope the Indian members will rise to the height of the occasion and support this amendment in order to express dissatisfaction with the Government for not making sufficient provision to meet a serious situation that has arisen in the country. In some districts there has been a failure of crops and in many places the distress is so acute that that it beggars all description: the newspapers have given full accounts. This small provision has been made as if to shut the eyes of the people to the actual state of affairs, but there are people who know the real situation and I say that these makeshifts will not deceive them. Therefore I wholeheartedly support the amendment.

Mr. W. H. NELSON: A great deal of the criticism which this motion for a grant has come in for is due to misapprehension. In addition to the grant of Rs. 50,000 in the budget, supplemented by Rs. 40,000, loans to the amount of Rs. 57,460 were distributed to the cultivators to enable them to purchase seeds for the spring crop. Over a lakh of rupees has been distributed as land improvement loans in the affected areas to enable private individuals to carry out works of improvement and give employment to labourers affected by the scarcity. Such loans are still being distributed and a sum of Rs. 1,57,000 is available for distribution.

3-45 P.M.

Gratuitous relief has also been granted in cases of real necessity. Government have sanctioned Rs. 5,000 from Trust Funds at their disposal and Collectors have granted relief from similar funds of which details are not available.

Those District Boards which have found it necessary to open relief works have spent about Rs. 50,000 out of their own funds before applying for assistance from Government.

Adding these figures together we get Rs. 2½ lakhs which have been spent on relief works and loans up to date; Rs. 1,57, 000 is still available within this financial year for distribution in Land Improvement Loans.

As regards this particular demand of Rs. 40,000 the demand comes under sections 84 and 85 of the Famine Code. To explain it I may quote parts of the sections:—

"84. Whenever distress is apprehended, the District Board of the locality should economise in its ordinary expenditure in all reasonable ways, and should set apart as much of its funds as possible for expenditure on works, adapting its programme of works, as far as it can, to subserve the purposes of relief. On the approach of distress, the ordinary works of the District Board should be expanded in order to meet the increased demand for labour and to enable the opening of regular relief works to be postponed as long as possible, as also to afford a test of the severity of the distress and of the necessity for regular relief operations.

"85. Expenditure on test works should, in the first instance, be defrayed by the District Board, so far as its funds permit. If it is necessary to carry on such works for any length of time, funds may be advanced by Government as required and, at the final adjustment of accounts, Government may reimburse the District Board to such extent as may be thought proper upon a consideration of the state of its finances and of the utility to the Board of the works carried out."

Out of Rs. 50,000 allotted in the Budget Rs. 47,000 has already been distributed to those District Boards who had applied for advances

for the purpose of opening test relief works. It is estimated that a further sum of Rs. 40,000 will be required for this particular purpose till the end of March. There are 40 days till the end of March and expenditure has not reached Rs. 1,000 a day. On the first of April a provision under this head of Rs. 2½ lakhs will, it is hoped, become available.

As regards criticisms of the Famine Code I may say that the Famine Code represents the experience of a hundred years of famine in this Province and in other provinces of India. Officers of Government are following its provisions. It is out of the question to consider a change in the provisions of the Famine Code at this moment. The rate at which labourers are paid has been criticised. The rules for fixing the rate of pay are laid down in the Famine Code. The money wage is calculated with reference to the price of rice in the locality. The rates are not intended to be competitive. Test works are not supposed to compete with ordinary work. For that reason, the wages are regulated by the rules in the Famine Code.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: Sir, I only wish to make one point clear. Mr. Nelson has explained the position up to date. With reference to certain arguments advanced as to the inadequacy of the amount now demanded, I may say that these relief works cannot possibly be finished within one financial year and must be carried over from one year to another. Mr. Nelson has explained why only Rs. 40,000 is required for the balance of this year. I shall explain later on during the course of my Budget speech that in the next year, instead of the normal provision of Rs. 50,000 for advances to District Boards, we are proposing a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs. As regards Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans, the original provision was Rs. 2 lakhs. We added another Rs. 2 lakhs to that making it Rs. 4 lakhs. Since then we have made provision in the revised estimate for Rs. 6,72,000. In next year's budget we propose to provide Rs. 7½ lakhs instead of Rs. 2 lakhs.

The motion that the demand of Rs. 40,000 under the head "43—Famine Relief and Insurance" be reduced by Re. 1 (as a token cut in order to draw attention to the fact that the sum is utterly inadequate) was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES.

Afzal, Maulvi Syed Muhammad.
Ahamad, Maulvi Asimuddin.
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin.
Ali, Mr. Altaf.
Atiqullah, Mr. Syed Md.
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam.
Guha, Mr. P. N.
Huq, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul.
Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul.
Husain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Maqbul.
Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kasem, Maulvi Abul.
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Mukerji, Mr. S. C.
Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra.

Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur-.
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-.
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Syed Abdur.
Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
Ray, Maharaja Jogindra Nath, of Natore.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.
Sarbadhikari, Dr. Sir Deva Prasad.
Sen, Mr. Satish Chandra.
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.

NOES.

Barton, Mr. J. F.
Cassells, Mr. A.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.
Dey, Mr. G. C.
Dowding, Mr. T. W.
Drummond, Mr. J. G.
Dutt, Mr. G. S.
Eddis, Mr. A. McD.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ghose, Mr. M. C.
Ghuznavi, Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan.
Hosain, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur.
James, Mr. F. E.
Lindsay, Mr. J. H.
MacBean, Mr. J. A.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A.
McCluskie, Mr. E. T.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder,
Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.
Nelson, Mr. W. H.
Oaten, Mr. E. F.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Phelps, Mr. Trevor J.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Reid, Mr. R. N.
Sachse, Mr. F. A.
Sarker, Raj Sahib Rebati Mahan.
Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus.
Skinner, Mr. S. A.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Tate, Major-General Godfrey.
Thompson, Mr. W. H.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 29 and the Noes 36 the motion was lost.

The following motion was then put and agreed to:—

"That a sum of Rs. 40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Famine Relief and Insurance" for granting relief to people affected by the scarcity."

Introduction of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for the year 1928-29.

4 P.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I have the honour to present the budget estimates of the Government of Bengal for the year 1928-29. This is the first budget which falls to me to present as Member in charge of the Finance Department, and I regret exceedingly that it is not a more satisfactory document from the point of view of the province as a whole.

These estimates are presented in the usual form, with the usual statements and usual appendices. The list of original works, showing separately works in progress and new works, is given in Appendices A and B, while original works not charged to revenue are shown in Appendix C. The two parts of Appendix D give the details of the charges incurred by the High Commissioner and the Accountant-General, India Office, in London. This latter statement is set out in detail, so that members may be able to see how the expenditure

incurred in England is distributed under the various major heads of the budget. In these statements we have endeavoured to give the fullest information possible, and I hope this will meet the requirements of all members for the discussion of the budget and the subsequent voting of grants. If any member, however, experiences any difficulty, or desires to have any further information or explanation, Mr. Cassells and I will be very pleased to see him at any time either at Writers' Buildings or in this House. In fact, every member of Government, each in his own department, will be only too glad to help members in every way.

In his speech last year, when presenting the current year's budget, the Hon'ble Sir James Donald referred to the difficulty in arriving at approximately accurate estimates, both on the receipt and on the expenditure sides, in the circumstances of recent years, but he added that we were getting down to a more normal basis and were in a better position to determine more accurately our true financial position. The correctness of this conclusion is, I think, shown by the figures of the year 1926-27, although we shall require further experience to gauge accurately the financial effect of changes under certain heads of expenditure, for example, commutation of pensions.

1926-27.—The actuals of the year 1926-27, which are now definitely known, exhibit a close approximation to the revised estimate which was placed before the Council last year. On the revenue side, the sanctioned estimate for that year amounted to Rs. 10,77,70,000 and the revised estimate was put at Rs. 10,49,80,000. The actual receipts turned out to be Rs. 10,50,60,000, only Rs. 80,000 above the revised estimate.

On the expenditure side, the original estimate for that year was Rs. 10,94,79,000, which was augmented by a supplementary grant of Rs. 20,73,000 to Rs. 11,15,52,000. This was reduced on the revised estimate to Rs. 10,81,83,000. The actual expenditure was Rs. 10,71,19,000—a difference of only a little over Rs. 10½ lakhs, spread over numerous heads. The total figures I have just mentioned exclude loan and capital operations. Taking everything into account, our income in 1926-27 was Rs. 10,67,38,000 and our expenditure Rs. 11,06,51,000, reducing the opening balance of Rs. 2,38,26,000 to Rs. 1,99,13,000 at the end of the year.

1927-28.—Let me now turn to the working of the current year. A year ago we estimated that our revenues for the year 1927-28 would amount to Rs. 10,71,89,000. Against this we have put the revised estimate at Rs. 10,76,61,000—an increase of nearly Rs. 5 lakhs. This is mainly due to an abnormal receipt of Rs. 1,59,000 from the Government of India as this Government's share of the cost of non-postal stamps in stock on the 1st April, 1921, as explained on page 27 of the

Financial Statement and Rs. 2,39,000 representing the estimated sale-proceeds of Government lands situated in Porabazar and Chowringhee. The only other noticeable variations are a decrease of Rs. 5,75,000 apprehended under "VI—Excise" due chiefly to the existence of agricultural distress in some districts of the Presidency and increase of Rs. 5 lakhs anticipated under "VII—Stamps." The revenue under this head is recovering from the slump of 1926-27, and we are gradually getting the increase expected as a result of the increased stamp duties, but receipts are still below the level of 1925-26. There are some slight differences between sanctioned and revised estimates under various heads, which are explained in detail in the Financial Statement.

Including a loan of Rs. 29,20,000 from the Government of India to finance our capital expenditure, we estimated a receipt of Rs. 37,23,000 on capital accounts. As the Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong will not require the loan of Rs. 5 lakhs this year for the improvement of the Port, the revised estimate has been reduced to Rs. 32,75,000. The revised estimate, it will be noticed, includes a receipt of Rs. 1,08,000 on account of the Depreciation Fund for Government Presses, which was hitherto kept in the Deposit Account by the Accountant-General, but which under the orders of Auditor-General has now been shown under the new head "Depreciation Fund for Government Presses" opened for the purpose. Including capital accounts, the total receipts we estimate will amount to Rs. 11,09,36,000 against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 11,09,12,000.

On the expenditure side we expect to have savings of over Rs. 39½ lakhs. It will be observed that under head "45—Superannuation allowances and pensions," the revised has been put at Rs. 64,91,000; that under head "45A—Commutation of pensions," a provision of Rs. 9 lakhs has been made in the revised against no provision in the budget; and that against head "60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue)," the budget provision of Rs. 9 lakhs has been altered to a minus figure of Rs. 12,58,000 in the revised. This reclassification of accounts between those three heads has been explained on page 87 of the Financial Statement. There are small savings under other heads, but the main decrease in expenditure is under "41 Civil Works," the reason being that the Public Works Department have not been able to work up to their programme. Considerable savings are expected under the heads "55—Construction of irrigation, navigation, embankment and drainage works (not charged to revenue)" and "Loans and Advances by the Bengal Government." The savings under the former head are due to the difficulty in obtaining tools and plant required for the construction of the Damodar Canal and under the latter almost entirely to the postponement of the taking of the loan of Rs. 5 lakhs this year by the Commissioners

of the Port of Chittagong and of the loan of Rs. 1½ lakhs for the new Howrah Bridge. The net result of the working of 1927-28, as we now estimate it, is a total income of Rs. 11,09,36,000 as against Rs. 11,09,12,000 in the budget and a total expenditure of Rs. 11,21,22,000 compared with Rs. 11,60,86,000 as originally provided, supplemented by a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs granted in the supplementary estimates, leaving us with a closing balance of Rs. 1,87,27,000.

1928-29.—Before I go on to deal with the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget for the year 1928-29, I wish to explain one point as regards the method of accounting, in which that budget differs slightly from previous budgets. This is with regard to the treatment of gross and net grants in the Demands for Grants. Up to now, when Government has rendered certain services to private persons or bodies (including local funds)—for example, services rendered by the Police Department to the Calcutta Port Commissioners—the cost of these services has been shown on the expenditure side of the budget and the recoveries made from the private person or body have been deducted from the cost and shown as deduct entries, also on the expenditure side of the budget. This method of showing these entries was challenged some years ago, and the Central Public Accounts Committee first raised this point in their report on the accounts of 1922-23. Since then the whole question has been under the careful consideration of Government, both from the constitutional and the accounting points of view. The general principle finally arrived at by the Government of India may be summarised in the following formula:—

"When a recovery from another Government represents nothing more than the debit to that Government of expenditure which was properly so debitable from the moment when the expenditure was sanctioned, the recovery does not represent revenue, and a net grant should be presented. Recoveries of all other kinds do represent revenue. They should be shown as such and the grant for expenditure should be gross."

The Auditor-General has now laid down certain rules for regulating the exhibition of recoveries of expenditure in Government Accounts, and he has directed that these rules shall come into force with effect from the accounts for 1928-29. The main rule now laid down is to the following effect:—

"Recoveries from private persons or bodies (including local funds, Indian States and Governments outside India) should, as a general rule, be treated as revenue and not as deduction from expenditure."

This rule is subject to certain exceptions which need not concern us here.

4-15 P.M.

As the Auditor-General has directed that this method of accounting shall come into force with effect from the accounts for 1928-29, we have no option but to make corresponding changes in our budget. For the convenience of members of this House I have drawn up a separate statement showing the alterations made on this account under the major heads, both on the revenue and expenditure sides of the budget.

The total of these alterations comes to Rs. 8,46,000 on the revenue side and to Rs. 8,45,000 on the expenditure side and as members will at once realise, the effect is to increase the revenue and the expenditure sides of the budget by these sums which should, therefore, be deducted from both sides of the budget before comparison is made with previous years.

Receipts, 1928-29.—On the revenue side, the budget figure for ordinary revenue has been put at Rs. 10,92,61,000, but, as I have said above, before we can compare this figure with those of previous years, we must deduct Rs. 8,46,000 on account of this new method of accounting. We thus arrive at a net figure of Rs. 10,84,15,000, as compared with the actuals of Rs. 10,50,60,000 for the year 1926-27 and a revised estimate of Rs. 10,76,61,000 for 1927-28, that is to say, our budget figure is Rs. 7,54,000 higher than our revised estimate for the current year. Under "5—Land Revenue" we have estimated for an increase in receipts amounting to Rs. 8,48,000. Of this sum, however, Rs. 4,37,000 is due to the new method of accounting for recoveries, as will be seen from the annexed statement. This, therefore, leaves a balance of Rs. 4,11,000, which is due altogether to abnormal settlement recoveries. Under the head "VI—Excise," we have provided for an increase of Rs. 4 lakhs in the hope that next year agricultural conditions will have improved. Even if this increase is obtained, I should like to point out that the increase will be less than a lakh over the receipts for the year 1925-26. The revenue under "Stamps," as I have said, seems to be recovering from the slump of 1926-27, and in the current year there has been a steady improvement under this head, which, we hope, will continue. Here also, however, I would point out that we still have not yet attained the level of 1925-26. Under "Forests" we have allowed for the steady increase in revenue which this department has been giving during the last few years owing to improved methods of working. It may also be noted that the two abnormal items under heads XXXIXA and XL, which I have already mentioned when discussing the revised estimates for the current year, have not been repeated in the budget for next year. As regards other heads the small variations in revenue have been explained in the Financial Statement.

Under the loan heads we have provided for taking a loan of Rs. 39 lakhs from the Government of India. This sum is for the purpose of financing next year's programme on the following schemes:—

(1) The Damodar Canal project.

(2) The new Council Chamber.

(3) Bally Bridge.

(4) Improvement to the Chittagong Port.

(5) Bakreswar Irrigation project.

The Damodar Canal project and the Bakreswar Irrigation scheme have been dealt with on page 46 of the Financial Statement. The new Council Chamber and the contribution for the roadways on the Bally Railway Bridge are mentioned on page 85 of the Financial Statement. There has been some delay in arranging the final details as regards the contract for the new Council Chamber, and, therefore, the revised estimate of expenditure this year has been put at Rs. 1 lakh instead of Rs. 2 lakhs. It has been found necessary to pile the foundations before construction can begin, but every endeavour will be made to push on with the work in the coming year.

Expenditure, 1928-29.—I come now to the expenditure for 1928-29. The expenditure which we have provided for in 1928-29, excluding expenditure outside the Revenue Account, but including repayment of advances from the Provincial Loans Fund, amounts to Rs. 11,84,51,000, as compared with the current year's budget figure of Rs. 11,13,30,000 and revised estimate of Rs. 11,09,22,000. Our anticipated expenditure, therefore, is Rs. 75,29,000 in excess of the revised estimate for the current year and Rs. 91,90,000 over and above our estimated receipts. I must mention here, however, that the excess of Rs. 75,29,000 includes an item of Rs. 54,47,000 as our contribution to the Government of India. I shall deal with this item later, but for the present we must include it in our anticipated expenditure. Of the balance, an amount totalling Rs. 8,45,000 is due to the changes in classification already referred to and a sum amounting to Rs. 16,16,000 is for expenditure on new schemes to which I will refer later. In arriving at the expenditure figures, we have estimated the actual expenditure as closely as we possibly can and have rigorously excluded all unauthorised items and of course, non-recurring expenditure for which provision was made in the current year's budget does not appear in next year's budget. When the members of this House come to examine the budget estimates in detail, they will find that we have adhered very

closely to the revised estimates for the current year and that we have allowed little variation. There appear to be some exceptions to this general statement which I shall now deal with. The head, "5—Land Revenue," shows an increase of over Rs. 10 lakhs over the revised estimate. As explained in the Financial Statement, most of this is not a real increase and is due to three main causes, first, increased provision under Land Acquisition establishment, the bulk of the cost of which will ultimately be recovered from the bodies concerned; second, apparent increases in cost owing to the new method of accounting for recoveries; third, the increased programme of the Malda Survey from one block to two.

There is an increase of Rs. 74,000 under the head "Forests," which, it is hoped, will result in increased receipts.

Under "General Administration" there is an increase of over Rs. 4 lakhs, of which Rs. 2 lakhs are due to the change in the method of accounting and the balance represents only a little over 1 per cent. of the total expenditure under this head. This increase is the sum of a number of small items, the details of which are given in the Financial Statement.

Police shows an increase of Rs. 9 lakhs. Rs. 3½ lakhs of this is accounted for by the new method of accounting for recoveries and most of the balance by a lump provision of Rs. 4 lakhs which has been made for the revision of the pay of the lower ranks of the Calcutta Police.

From the figures on page 66 of the Financial Statement it will be noticed that during the last three years steady progress has been made in providing funds for educational purposes. It has been possible to provide for further expenditure of Rs. 3,39,000 on education in the next year's budget. Of this increase, most of which is for non-recurring purposes, Rs. 2,09,000 are for increased grants to the Dacca University, mainly for the construction of the Moslem Hall, for the maintenance of the University buildings and for the sewerage scheme of the University; and the balance is spread over the various heads under "Education." Although the expenditure is not directly debitable to the head "Education," I may mention here that over Rs. 2 lakhs have been provided in the Public Works Department budget for the acquisition of land for providing a play-ground and swimming tank for the students of the Calcutta Madrasah and the Islamia College, Calcutta.

Changes in the method of accounting and increased grants to medical institutions, including hospitals attached to mufassal medical schools, and larger provision for the Indian Mental Hospital at

Ranchi, mostly for capital expenditure, mainly account for the increase of Rs. 4,78,000 under the head "Medical." In addition to this, a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided under "41—Civil Works" towards the construction of medical school buildings at Chittagong and Jalpaiguri and also a sum of Rs. 18,500 for extending the Ronaldshay Medical School, Burdwan.

Under "Public Health" a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has not only been made for the expansion of the Public Health Organisation scheme in the districts, a scheme which is estimated to cost ultimately Rs. 12 lakhs a year, but a special provision of Rs. 62,000 has been made for grants to local bodies for quinine, in addition to the annual recurring grant of Rs. 1,20,000, and for the improvements of water supply and drainage in municipal towns. To cope with the recent cholera epidemics, special arrangements were made to buy and manufacture larger supplies of anti-cholera vaccine at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,28,000 in the current year and a provision of Rs. 1,36,000 has been made next year in order to meet possible requirements.

The Agriculture and Industries Departments too have their share of increases which have been fully set out in pages 77 to 81 of the Financial Statement.

The provision under "41 Civil Works" is over Rs. 2 lakhs less than the revised estimate and is nearly Rs. 10 lakhs less than the actual expenditure of 1926-27. We have not been able to do much more than provide for the carrying on of works in progress; new expenditure amounts to Rs. 2,42,371 only, mainly for the acquisition of land for a play-ground for the Calcutta Madrasah and Islamia College, as mentioned above.

Under "43 -Famine Insurance," a provision of Rs. 2,50,000 has been made, as against the normal provision of Rs. 50,000, in order to provide advances to district boards for test works and for gratuitous relief that may be required to cope with agricultural distress. Relief for this purpose is also provided in the form of land improvement and agriculturists' loans. The original provision in this year's budget of Rs. 2,00,000, was raised to Rs. 4 lakhs by a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,00,000. The revised estimate now stands at Rs. 6,72,000 and a provision of Rs. 7,75,000 has been made in next year's budget.

4-30 P.M.

There is a large decrease in the estimated expenditure under "45—Superannuation allowances and pensions," which has been explained in the Financial Statement.

From what I have said, already, members of this House will realise, I think, that owing to the state of our finances we have been compelled to cut expenditure down to the minimum and have been able to allow for very little new expenditure. As regards new expenditure, the Hon'ble Members and Ministers have many urgent and important schemes which they are anxious to start, but most of these schemes have had to be put on one side, and the utmost we have been able to do is to provide a sum of Rs. 5,89,997 for new recurring expenditure and Rs. 10,26,073 for non-recurring expenditure. The total of these two sums is Rs. 16,16,070, and of this Rs. 9,12,272 have been allotted to the Transferred Departments. In the allotment of this amount, the two principal items are non-recurring grants of Rs. 1,17,000 for the water-works improvement scheme in Dacca, and of over Rs. 2 lakhs for acquisition of land for providing a play-ground and swimming tank for the students of the Calcutta Madrasah and the Islamia College, Calcutta, and the balance has been distributed to provide for urgent needs under the Education, Agriculture, Industries, Medical, Public Health and Co-operative Departments. Of the sum of just over Rs. 7 lakhs allotted to the Reserved Departments, Rs. 4 lakhs have been provided for the revision of the pay of the constables, head-constables and sergeants of the Calcutta Police and Rs. 2 lakhs for commutation of pensions. This leaves only Rs. 1 lakh to meet the needs of all the other departments on the Reserved Side. It may also be noted that the provision for commutation of pensions is for all retired officers of Government and not only those under the Reserved Departments. All these new schemes have been specifically mentioned under each head in the Financial Statement.

No one realises more than I do that this is a very unsatisfactory budget, which does not do justice to any department of Government, and, especially, to the Transferred Departments. But I do not think that any one can hold the Hon'ble Ministers, or even the Members of Government, in any way responsible for this position. It is solely due to our Financial Settlement, and until that is put right, we can expect little or no amelioration.

I now come to the very important item of Rs. 54,47,000 provided under head "51—Contributions to Central Government." Members of this House are doubtless familiar with the history of this contribution and I need not go into it in detail. I may recapitulate it very shortly. Under the Financial Settlement arrived at as a result of the deliberations of the Financial Relations Committee, presided over by Lord Meston, the Government of Bengal had to make an annual contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs to the Government of India. The Government of Bengal protested very vigorously against the whole basis of that Settlement and have all along continued to protest. As

a result of these protests, the Government of India agreed to remit the whole contribution for three years from 1922-23 to 1924-25. In the beginning of 1925 the matter came up again, and as a result of further negotiations, the Government of India continued the remission for another period of three years from 1925-26 to 1927-28. In the mean time, as a result of the Central Government's budget of 1927-28, permanent remission was made of Rs. 8,53,000. This, however, still leaves us with a recurring annual liability of Rs. 54,47,000. We trust that in his coming budget speech the Hon'ble Member of the Government of India in charge of the Finance portfolio will be able to continue to the Government of Bengal the remission of this annual contribution, or, better still, to wipe it out altogether permanently. Until we know the decision of the Government of India on this point, however, provision must be made in our budget. If this contribution is not remitted, we shall be faced with a deficit of Rs. 91,90,000, and we may say at once that it will be quite impossible to carry on. Even if this contribution is remitted, either temporarily or permanently, we shall have to face a deficit of Rs. 37,43,000 in next year's budget. In these circumstances we may be able to carry on for a year or so, but not unless we can see ultimate relief in the near future; and that relief must take the shape of a new Financial Settlement which will leave Bengal with an expanding income adequate for her needs and proper development. We are again addressing the Government of India reiterating our protests against the present Financial Settlement and our claims for its complete revision. It is not likely, however, that the Government of India will do anything at the moment beyond continuing the remission of our annual contribution. In all probability the question of the total revision of the Financial Settlement will be left to be examined by the Reforms Commission. The members of that Commission are now in India for a preliminary survey of the position. They will not go into details until next cold weather, but when that time comes, and when the Government of Bengal put their case before the Commission, one of the most important points that they will urge is that the Financial Settlement was wrong *ab initio* and treated Bengal most unfairly, and that it was largely owing to the shortness of funds that the working of the reformed constitution in Bengal has been so hampered and that Ministers have found it so difficult to carry on. The Government of Bengal will put in the forefront of their case a claim for a complete revision of the Financial Settlement, at any rate so far as Bengal is concerned, and unless that is done, I am convinced that all parties in the province will be unanimous in thinking that the successful working of the new constitution will be impossible in Bengal, however good that constitution may be in other ways.

Statement showing alterations made in the receipt and expenditure sides of the Budget owing to the change in classification to be introduced from 1928-29.

Estimate of recoveries which formerly used to be adjusted in reduction of expenditure but will be credited as receipts from 1928-29.		Estimated increase in gross expenditure under heads where the recoveries used to be adjusted in reduction of expenditure.	
Receipts.		*Expenditure.*	
V.—Land Revenue.	Rs.	5.—Land Revenue.	Rs.
Recoveries on account of Land Acquisition establishments ..	2,00,000	Recoveries on account of Land Acquisition establishments ..	2,00,000
Recoveries on account of Partition establishments ..	1,00,000	Recoveries on account of Partition establishments ..	99,000
Recoveries on account of Certificate establishment ..	37,000	Recoveries on account of Certificate establishment ..	37,000
Recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement of Private and Wards' Estates	1,00,000	Recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement of Private and Wards' Estates ..	1,00,000
IX.—Registration.		9.—Registration.	
Miscellaneous.			
Recoveries from the Calcutta Improvement Trust on account of cost of establishment ..	4,162	Recoveries from the Calcutta Improvement Trust on account of establishment	4,162
XXXV.—Miscellaneous.		22.—General Administration.	
Recoveries from District Boards on account of Road Cess establishment	2,00,000	Recoveries from District Boards on account of Road Cess establishment	2,00,000
XVII.—Administration of Justice.		24.—Administration of Justice.	
Miscellaneous.			
Recoveries by Legal Remembrancer for services rendered to private estates ..	5,000	Recoveries by Legal Remembrancer for services rendered to private estates ..	5,000
		Presidency Magistrates—	
Recoveries from the Calcutta Corporation on account of the cost of Municipal Magistrate's Courts	44,000	Recoveries from the Calcutta Corporation on account of the cost of Municipal Magistrate's Courts	44,000

Estimate of recoveries which formerly used to be adjusted in reduction of expenditure but will be credited as receipts from 1928-29.

Receipts.

	Rs.
XIX.—Police—Miscellaneous.	
Presidency Police—Port Police.	
Recoveries from the Calcutta Port Commissioners ..	2,74,000
Hospital Charges	12,000
District Police.	
Recoveries from Port Commissioners, Chittagong	9,000
Recoveries from Police Force for diet supplied at hospitals..	50,000
Railway Police.	
Recoveries on account of Police supplied to Cooch Behar Railway	5,000
XXII.—Medical.	
Recoveries on account of services of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons lent to local bodies .. .	31,000
XXIII.—Public Health.	
Recoveries from local bodies on account of supervision charges of the Chief Engineer, Public Health	50,000
XXIV.—Agriculture.	
Veterinary Receipts.	
Recoveries from local bodies on account of contribution towards the pay of veterinary assistants	83,200
Agricultural receipts.	
Sale proceeds of seed stores ..	20,000
Total ..	12,24,362

Estimated increase in gross expenditure under heads where the recoveries used to be adjusted in reduction of expenditure.

Expenditure.

	Rs.
26.—Police.	
Presidency Police—Port Police.	
Recoveries from the Calcutta Port Commissioners ..	2,74,000
Hospital Charges	12,000
District Police.	
Recoveries from Port Commissioners, Chittagong ..	9,000
Recoveries from Police Force for diet supplied at Hospitals	50,000
Railway Police.	
Recoveries on account of Police supplied to Cooch Behar Railway	5,000
32.—Medical.	
Recoveries on account of services of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons lent to local bodies	31,000
33.—Public Health.	
Recoveries from local bodies on account of supervision charges of the Chief Engineer, Public Health	50,000
34.—Agriculture.	
Veterinary Charges.	
Recoveries from local bodies on account of contribution towards the pay of veterinary assistants	83,200
Agricultural Experimental Farm.	
Seed stores	20,000
Total ..	12,23,362

Estimated recoveries which used to be credited as receipts but will be adjusted in reduction of expenditure.

Receipts.	Rs.
VI.—Excise.	
Recoveries from Naogaon Ganja Co-operative Society for Preventive Staff employed there during ganja cultivation season	26,000
XVII.—Administration of Justice.	
Miscellaneous.	
Recoveries from the Central and Assam Governments for services rendered by Law Officers of Bengal Government ..	1,30,000
XXIV.—Agriculture.	
Veterinary Receipts.	
Recoveries from other Governments for the cost of maintenance of the Bengal Veterinary College	10,800
XXV.—Industries.	
Recoveries from Bihar and Orissa Government for training their students in the Tanning Institute	12,000
XXXIII. Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	
Recoveries from the Governments of Bihar and Orissa, Burma and Madras, on account of the actual pensions paid to their pensioners on their behalf ..	2,00,000
Total ..	3,78,800
NET TOTAL ..	8,45,562

Estimated decrease in gross expenditure on account of the recoveries being adjusted in reduction of expenditure.

Expenditure.	Rs.
6.—Excise.	
Recoveries from Naogaon Ganja Co-operative Society for Preventive Staff employed there during ganja cultivation season	26,000
24.—Administration of Justice.	
Law Officers.	
Recoveries from the Central and Assam Governments for services rendered by Law Officers of Bengal Government ..	1,30,000
34.—Agriculture.	
Veterinary Charges.	
Recoveries from other Governments for the cost of maintenance of the Bengal Veterinary College	10,800
35.—Industries.	
Recoveries from Bihar and Orissa Government for training their students in the Tanning Institute	12,000
45.—Superannuation and Pensions.	
Recoveries from the Governments of Bihar and Orissa, Burma and Madras, on account of the actual pensions paid to their pensioners on their behalf ..	2,00,000
Total ..	3,78,800
NET TOTAL ..	8,44,562

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 P.M., on Wednesday, the 29th February, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 29th February, 1928, at 2-30 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (RAJA MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURY, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 95 nominated and elected members.

Oath or Affirmation.

The following member made an affirmation of his allegiance to the Crown:—

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI HAFIZAR RAHMAN CHAUDHURI.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Sub-Registrars serving as Honorary Magistrates.

*61. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of Honorary Magistrates who are Sub-Registrars;

(*ii*) the number of days each of these Honorary Magistrates were occupied on the Bench from January to December last year?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why Sub-Registrars are appointed as Honorary Magistrates?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to relieve these Sub-Registrars of their additional function as Honorary Magistrates?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Their ordinary duties permit them to undertake magisterial work and their assistance often proves valuable.

(*c*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 61.

Districts.	The present number of Sub-Registrars who are Honorary Magistrates.	The number of days each of these Honorary Magistrates was occupied on the Bench from January to December last year.	
Bankura	3	1	51
		1	18
		1	Nil
Bakarganj	4	1	30
		1	7
		1	54
		1	14
Burdwan	1		55
Dinajpur	1		4
Faridpur	4	1	65
		1	49
		1	29
		1	32
Hooghly	1		94
Howrah	1		Nil
Jessore	2	1	49
		1	2
Khulna	2	1	Nil
		1	95
Murshidabad	1		50
Nadia	3	1	122
		1	22
		1	11
Pabna	1		56
Malda	1		125
Rangpur	4	1	Nil
		1	6
		1	79
		1	18
24-Parganas	2	1	46
		1	10

In the remaining districts there are no Sub-Registrars who are Honorary Magistrates.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how it is that the ordinary duties that are performed by these Sub-Registrars permit them to discharge the duties of Honorary Magistrates when they are absent for so many days as stated in the statement?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I am afraid I do not understand the question.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: How does the work of the Sub-Registry office go on in their absence? In Bankura the Registrar was absent for 51 days.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: It does not mean that they are on the Bench the whole 24 hours.

Arrest of certain persons by certain policemen of Section C Town, Calcutta.

***62. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether on the night of the 24th of October last several persons including Babu Debendra Nath Bhattacharjya, a vakil of the Calcutta High Court, were arrested by certain policemen of Section C Town on an alleged charge of riotous behaviour?

(*b*) Is it a fact that on their way to the thana the persons so arrested, including the said vakil, were insulted, assaulted and roughly handled by the policemen who had arrested them?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the case instituted against the accused ended in their acquittal and that the Magistrate characterised the police evidence as a mass of contradictions?

(*d*) Has the Hon'ble Member held any inquiry into the matter? If so, with what result?

MEMBER in charge of the POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is possible that they were handled more roughly than was strictly necessary, but none of them made any complaint either to the Assistant Commissioner in Charge, North Town, who visited the police-station whilst they were there or to the Deputy Commissioner next morning.

(*c*) Yes. A copy of the judgment is laid on the table.

(*d*) On the appearance in the press of accounts of the alleged occurrence the Commissioner of Police directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Division, to hold an enquiry. Three of the arrested persons, including the vakil, then made statements. A sub-inspector was censured for not personally accompanying the constables sent from the thana to rescue the head constable who had been dragged into No. 2, Kasi Basu's Lane. Owing to the lapse of time between the alleged occurrence and the appearance of an account in the press it was considered unlikely that evidence of any value as to the part taken by individuals would be forthcoming and no further action

was taken. Government also took into consideration the fact that Babu Debendra Nath Bhattacharjya had thanked the officer in charge of the thana for the consideration shown to him.

Judgment referred to in the reply to clause (c) of starred question No. 62.

On the evidence which is a mass of contradictions I am doubtful as to which accused assaulted the head constable. It appears to me from the evidence that several arrests were made at the spot, but I am not satisfied on the evidence that all or any of the accused before me took part in the actual assault.

I therefore find each of the accused not guilty and acquit each of them under section 245, Criminal Procedure Code.

(Sd.) H. K. DE,

4th Presidency Magistrate.

November 10th, 1927.

Inspecting staff of the Education Department in Chittagong.

*63. **Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the proportion of Hindus and Moslems in the Chittagong Division;

(*ii*) the number of Divisional Inspectors and Second Inspectors of Schools since the creation of the service;

(*iii*) how many of them are Hindus; and

(*iv*) the present number of Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools who are (*1*) Muhammadans, and (*2*) Hindus?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*i*) 1 : 3·04.

(*ii*) Seven Divisional Inspectors of Schools in the Indian Educational Service and 13 Second Inspectors of Schools in the Provincial and Bengal Educational Services.

(*iii*) Of the Divisional Inspectors of Schools, none. Of the Second Inspectors of Schools, five.

(*iv*) (*1*) Muhammadans, 4; (*2*) Hindus, 3.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the last answer refers to the Chittagong Division only?

The Hon'ble NAWAB MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes.

Kurigram Civil Courts, undisposed of petty deposits.

*64. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1926 and 1927 the amount of money left undisposed of in the Munsifs' Courts at Kurigram (Rangpur) under the head—

(*i*) ferry charges for witnesses; and

(*ii*) cost for calling for documents from witnesses?

(*b*) What amount of money has been accumulated to Government during 1926 and 1927 in the Civil Court accounts of the said courts on the score of petty deposits?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of spending the money available as petty sums after local public charitable institutions?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) No. The parties may claim refund of their money at any time.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 64.

(*a*) (*i*) A sum of Rs. 3-6 on account of ferry charges for witnesses was left undisbursed during the year 1926 and a sum of Rs. 128-2 in the year 1927.

(*ii*) The amount of Rs. 556-4 and Rs. 799-8, respectively, in the year 1926 and 1927 on account of costs for calling for documents from witnesses were left undisbursed.

(*b*) The following amounts have lapsed to Government during the years 1926 and 1927, respectively, as petty deposits:—

	1926.	1927.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
B Deposits	59 6 3	225 12 0
A Deposits reduced to Rs. 5 or less ..	275 7 0	277 12 3
Total ..	334 13 3	503 8 3

Site of the Hooghly Madrasah.

*65. **Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 19 of the 9th February, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is in contemplation to remove the Madrasah from its present site?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: In view of the difficulty in finding a commodious site for the Hooghly Madrasah the question of removing the Madrasah from its present site has been dropped for the present.

Maulvi ABDUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is only for the difficulty of finding a site that the proposal was dropped, and that the matter that the present building was erected on the cost of the Haji Muhammad Mohsin Fund will have any influence on his decision?

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri, of Santosh): I do not allow that question.

Alleged gambling in Bakarganj and Noakhali lottery houses.

*66. **Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that gambling is going on in different parts of the districts of Bakarganj and Noakhali, where the Gambling Act has been extended, in lottery houses; and

(*ii*) whether the Government intends to amend and extend the Gambling Act so that these lottery houses come within the purview of the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*i*) and (*ii*) Government are informed that it is not a fact that gambling is going on in these districts in lottery houses.

High English School teachers in Chittagong Division, improvement of pay of.

*67. **Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what, if any, improvement in the pay and prospects of high English school teachers have been effected in the Chittagong Division up to 1926?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Dr. Jenkins, the present Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, has effected some improvement in this direction within the short period of his incumbency?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of placing additional funds at the disposal of Dr. Jenkins for the improvement of secondary education in general?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Some improvement was effected up to 1926, but it is not easy without excessive collection of detail to indicate its extent. The following minimum rates of pay have been rigidly enforced in all aided high schools without exception as from January 1st, 1928. They were in operation in all except one or two schools during the session 1927:—

Trained Graduates, Rs. 60 per month.

Graduates and L.T.S., Rs. 50 per month.

Head Maulvis and Head Pandits, Rs. 40 per month.

Other teachers, Rs. 35 per month.

These are the minimum rates and in many schools are considerably exceeded. In the case of the lower paid teachers this represents an average increase of not less than 50 per cent. In addition to these definitely regulated minimum salaries, teachers have also had the benefit of private provident funds with contributions at the rate of one anna in the rupee by the teacher and the school respectively in all schools since April 1st, 1927.

(*b*) Yes, within the limits of funds available.

(*c*) They hope when possible to give additional funds to all Inspectors.

Ministerial officers in the Education Department in Chittagong Division.

***88. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there is any Government circular fixing the proportion of Moslems and Hindus in the matter of appointments in the Division?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of ministerial officers in the Education Department of the Chittagong Division; and

(*ii*) how many of them are Hindus?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said circular is being observed in the Chittagong Division?

(d) If not, what are the reasons?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) 31.

(ii) 14.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore.

***69. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware that the admission of students into the 1st year class of the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, has been falling off abnormally, year by year, for the last 3 years?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of students admitted into the 1st year class, year by year, for the last 3 years?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken to find out the cause of the gradual reduction?

(d) If no steps have yet been taken, what are the reasons?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many scholarships are given to the 1st year students of the Institute by the Government every year?

(f) How many of them have been awarded to the students during the last 3 years, year by year?

(g) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) how many scholarships are given by district boards every year, and

(ii) how many students of the 1st year class of 1927 are from the district boards?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (a) and (b) The admissions to the 1st year class for the last 3 years are as follows: 1925-26, 8; 1926-27, 9; and 1927-28, 5.

(c) and (d) The falling off being only for the current year can scarcely be said to be so marked as to call for special inquiry on the

part of Government; but the Director of Industries is already watching the situation.

(*e*) Six.

(*f*) 1925-26, 5; 1926-27, 6; and 1927-28, 5.

(*g*) (*i*) Scholarships are awarded by district boards occasionally, but not at any fixed rate.

(*ii*) One.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Encroachment on footpaths and public roads in Calcutta.

59. Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware that now-a-days encroachment on footpaths and sometime on public roads in Calcutta is very common?

(*b*) Whose duty is it to prevent such encroachments?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why such cases of obstruction are being allowed to flourish and steadily increase in number from day to day?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The Member is referred to the answer given on the 22nd February, 1927, to unstarred question No. 26 by Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy on this subject. The position is unchanged. The police devote a considerable amount of time and energy to this problem, but unfortunately with little or no result.

Arrest of several persons in Cornwallis Street.

60. Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that on the 24th October, 1927, on the *Kali Puja* night at about 7-15 P.M., a constable was assaulted by some unknown persons in front of Dr. W. C. Roy's house in Cornwallis Street, Calcutta;

(*ii*) that at about 8 P.M. on the same night a detachment of police force under a head constable entered premises Nos. 1 and 2 of Kasi Basu's Lane and arrested several persons;

(*iii*) that there was *Kali Puja* going on in premises No. 2, Kasi Basu's Lane, when the police entered and that the image of *Kali* was desecrated;

(*iv*) that many respectable persons and boys were arrested and taken to the thana having been subjected to humiliations on the way;

(*v*) that most of the arrested persons were severely assaulted at the thana by the constables and that some of the arrested persons wanted water to drink but that they were abused;

(*vi*) that two young men were arrested at the thana and sent up when they had come to inquire whether any of their relations had been in police custody;

(*vii*) that three aged gentlemen who came to the thana to release their wards on bail were arrested and assaulted, but subsequently released by Inspector B. K. Banerjee on his arrival at the thana; and

(*viii*) that eight persons were tried under section 68 of the Calcutta Police Act in the court of Mr. H. K. De, 4th Presidency Magistrate, and acquitted on the 10th November, 1927?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*i*) A constable was assaulted because he prevented a small boy from setting light to a firework. A head constable who came to his assistance was also assaulted, his *pagri*, pocket-book and whistle being lost in the struggle. They identified some of their assailants.

(*ii*) A detachment of police were sent out from Burtolla police-station and rescued the head constable, who had been assaulted, from the road where he was surrounded by his assailants who, hearing the approach of the *hulla*, dragged him out of No. 2, Kasi Basu's Lane, into which they had at first dragged him. This party did not enter premises No. 1 or 2, Kasi Basu's Lane. The first head constable who was assaulted was dragged inside No. 2 by the assailants.

(*iii*) *Mahabir Puja* was in progress. The police did not enter the premises.

(*iv*) and (*v*) Six persons were arrested on the spot and taken to the police-station. As stated in answer to another question it is possible that they were more roughly handled than was strictly necessary, but no complaint was made of their treatment either on the way to the police-station or at the police-station. No such complaint was made to the Assistant Commissioner who visited the police-station that night, or to the Deputy Commissioner at reports next morning. In fact it was not until November 15—three weeks after the occurrence—that any such allegation was made, and then anonymously in the press.

(*vi*) Yes. On the identification of the assaulted head constable who identified these persons from a crowd which assembled at the police-station.

(*vii*) No.

(*viii*) Yes.

Failure of aman crop in the Kandi subdivision of Murshidabad.

61. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 27 of the 9th February, 1928, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that *aman* crop has almost completely failed in the Kandi subdivision of the Murshidabad district?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): Yes, to the extent of 14 annas.

Number of Muslim and non-Muslim jurors.

62. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, the respective number existing at present of Muslim and non-Muslim jurors in this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 62 showing, district by district, the respective number existing at present of Muslim and non-Muslim jurors in the province of Bengal.

Districts.	Number of Muslim Jurors.	Number of Non-Muslim Jurors.
Bakarganj	525	642
Bankura	27	761
Birbhum	77	328
Burdwan	118	645
Chittagong	210	431
Chittagong Hill Tracts	No jury system.	
Dacca	369	661
Dinajpur	187	280
Jalpaiguri	No jury system.	
Darjeeling	Ditto.	
Faridpur	296	608
Hooghly	94	1,012
Howrah	53	534
Khulna	173	855
Jessore	366	874
Midnapore	57	1,329
Murshidabad	155	637
Mymensingh	1,127	1,283
Nadia	134	552
Noakhali	139	137
Pabna	155	294
Bogra	225	248
Rajshahi	551	974
Malda	248	416
Rangpur	307	372
Tippera	328	495
24-Parganas	209	1,687

River Bhairab.

63. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) With reference to the reply to my unstarred question No. 12 of the 9th February, 1928, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the river Bhairab has become a running stream for the last one year or so?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any attempt was made by Government to join the Bhairab with the Chota Bhairab near Dengapara and whether any estimate was made as to the cost of the same?

MEMBER in charge of IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari): (*a*) Government have no information; an inquiry will be made.

(*b*) No.

Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca Division.

64. Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware—

(*i*) that Babu Hiralal Bhattacharji was an officer under the Central Bank of Kalapara in the district of Bakarganj;

(*ii*) that he was compelled to resign for misappropriation;

(*iii*) that he was appointed in the Bank when the present Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Dacca Division, was the Chairman of the Bank;

(*iv*) that he is now acting as an auditor on the recommendation of the Assistant Registrar; and

(*v*) that the Assistant Registrar was aware of his misconduct at Kalapara?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*v*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why the Assistant Registrar recommended an officer charged with a grave offence?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) He was a Supervisor under the Khepupara Central Bank.

(*ii*) No. He resigned of his own accord.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) Government are not aware of any misconduct on his part.

(*b*) and (*c*) The questions do not arise.

Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education.

65. Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether the posts of Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education are retained chiefly for the purpose of inspection of madrasahs?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which of the Assistant Inspectors have passed the Arabic Title Examination?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) It is not correct that the posts of Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education are retained chiefly for the purpose of inspection of madrasahs. A copy of the rules relating to the functions of such officers is placed on the table.

(*b*) In view of the reply to (*a*), this question does not arise.

Rules referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 65 relating to the functions of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools for Muhammadan Education.

1. The Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education should be subordinate to Inspectors of Schools as are all other Assistant Inspectors. They are not to be regarded in any sense as assistants to the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, Bengal.

2. The Divisional Inspector of Schools in each division will arrange the work and touring of the Assistant Inspector for Muhammadan Education and will require accounts of his inspections. The minimum number of tour days for these Assistant Inspectors should be 150 days a year.

3. The Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education should regard it as their chief duty to improve the work done in Muhammadan schools with a view to bringing these institutions up to the same level of efficiency with regard to secular subjects as other schools in the

province. They must, however, also visit all schools in which Moslem pupils are studying including High and Middle English Schools. In institutions which are not purely Muhammadan they will enquire into the following points and report to the Inspector of Schools concerned:—

(1) The hostel accommodation for Moslem boys.

(2) The provision for the teaching of the classical languages required by Moslems.

(3) The representation of Moslems on the managing committees.

(4) The number of Moslem teachers on the staff.

(5) Whether any special provision is necessary to improve the position of Moslem boys studying in the school.

(6) Any other point which they may think necessary to bring to the notice of the Divisional Inspector of Schools.

A copy of any remarks made by the Assistant Inspector for Muhammadan Education in the visitors' book of an institution, or of any separate report that may be sent by him to the Inspector of Schools, may be communicated by the Assistant Inspector to the Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education for information.

4. The Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education should be familiar with the state of Moslem areas and villages in the matter of education and should be able to initiate the establishment of special Moslem schools (or ordinary primary or secondary schools which would especially benefit Moslems) where necessary.

5. The Assistant Inspector for Muhammadan Education should submit to the Inspector each year, before the publication of the annual report for the division, an up-to-date record of the purely Moslem institutions in the whole division. He should also be able to supply any information or statistics which the Inspector may require regarding these Moslem institutions.

6. During the year all district and subdivisional headquarters should be visited by the Assistant Inspector. There must be some regularity in his touring. He should settle in a district for some days and see a large percentage of the schools in that district rather than make brief visits to different places from divisional headquarters.

During his visits to a district headquarters the Assistant Inspector should ascertain, in personal consultation with the District Deputy Inspector, how far provision for the education of Moslems is made by the District Board. When the District Board's educational budget estimates are prepared by the Deputy Inspector in consultation with the

Inspector, as is required by rule 68 of the District Boards' educational rules, the Inspector will consult the Assistant Inspector regarding the provision made for the education of Moslems. The Assistant Inspectors for Muhammadan Education should carefully scrutinise the method of distribution of *maktab* and *madrasah* allotments made by the District Board.

7. The Assistant Inspector must from time to time check the work of the subordinate officers in charge of Muhammadan education. These officers will communicate with him through the Deputy Inspectors of Schools.

General Discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1928-29.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Mr. President, a budget that makes no provision for the development of any of the nation-building departments and allows for no progress cannot but be regarded as an extremely disappointing document. In fact the Budget that the Hon'ble Finance Member has presented to this Council merely permits of the carrying on of the administration in its minimum essentials, and that too not without drawing on the balances. It is a matter for much regret that the Government of Bengal should have lived for some years on their capital. Expenditure during these years has always exceeded receipts and the closing balances have steadily declined. That an advanced province like Bengal should have been thus starved for funds for its necessary development is far from creditable to the authorities concerned.

The unsatisfactory plight of Bengal in respect of its finances is mainly due to the introduction of what is known as the Reform Scheme of administration. It has deprived the province of some of her main sources of income and imposed upon it a very costly top-heavy administrative agency. The Meston Committee that was appointed to make financial adjustments between the Central and the Provincial Governments did not see its way, probably on account of some mysterious miscalculations, to allow Bengal sufficient revenue to meet her normal expenditure, not to speak of any margin for desired expansion. Bengal gets little out of the income of her various industrial and manufacturing activities. The result has been that by an irony of fate the wealthiest province in the Indian Empire has to live upon financial charity. It has to ask as a matter of grace what it should have claimed as a matter of right. But for the remission made by the Government of India, on account of the piteous cries of the Government of Bengal, of Rs. 63 lakhs of its fixed contribution, the administration of the province would have been very seriously dislocated.

Not many years ago the administration of the Province of Bengal, which included in it Bihar and Orissa, was carried on, I think quite efficiently, by one Lieutenant-Governor, unassisted by Executive Councillors, Ministers and Presidents. The work that was done by one official is now being done by not less than 16 officials—2 Governors, 6 Executive Councillors, 4 Ministers, 2 Presidents, and 2 Deputy Presidents, not to mention the consequent increase in the Secretariat and clerical staff. The size of the province has been cut down, her resources have been crippled, but her administrative agency has been enlarged at an enormous cost, producing great financial embarrassment. Is not this indeed Reforms with a vengeance? Have the high hopes entertained by those who welcomed the Reforms, in spite of various objectionable limitations and reservations, been fulfilled? Has any appreciable advancement been made in any direction? The illiteracy prevailing in the province is still almost as appalling as in the pre-Reform days, the toll of malaria and other preventible diseases is as heavy as before and the economic distress in the country is as acute as ever. What is more, the Reforms have proved a veritable apple of discord that has plunged the country in a vortex of inter-communal agitation and strife. Those who lived together in peace and amity for centuries seem to have become possessed by a fit of insanity, and in their madness they have been flying at each others' throats as if determined to commit national political suicide. I wish the gravity of the sitution were even now thoroughly realised and the fact that the political salvation of the country can be achieved only by mutual trust and mutual tolerance were properly recognised. It is essentially necessary for the progress of the province that its finances should be placed on a sound and satisfactory basis. This is not possible unless the income from the industrial sources are restored and the expenditure on administration is curtailed.

2-45 P.M.

The time at our disposal will not permit of the discussion of the different subjects dealt with in the Budget. I shall, therefore, confine myself to only one subject with which I have been closely connected throughout my career, I mean education. It is to be regretted that sufficient funds have not been provided in the Budget for the expansion and improvement of education. The present system of education was devised about three-quarters of a century ago with a view to train people for working the administrative machinery, that is, to produce good clerks, expert copyists, efficient officers. This purpose it has served very well, but now it has outgrown its utility. So long the schools and colleges have manufactured quill-drivers and service-hunters, but not experts in applied science, commerce or industry. It is high time that far more attention should be paid than has hitherto been done to the practical cultural and economic aspects of education. It would be a sad mistake to stick to a system that has been instrumental of late in swelling not only

the number of the unemployed but also of the unemployable. A Bengali primer that was at one time used as a text-book in schools in Bengal contained the lines, "*Lekhá Padá kará já Ghárry Ghorá charví shá.* (He who writes and reads, rides horses and drives carriages.) Times have greatly changed since these lines were composed. At present it would not be far from the truth to say, as Sir P. C. Roy once said, "*Lekhá Padá Kará já Upabash Kará shá.*" (He who writes and reads, starves.) In close touch, as I have been, with a large number of those who have received education I am perhaps in a better position than others to realise to what pitiable straits our young men are driven when they pass out of the schools and colleges. I have known graduates and undergraduates, not to speak of the Matriculates, roaming about for years in search of employment and some of them actually begging, if not doing anything worse, in order to avoid starvation. Their lot is worse than that of coolies, who with comparative ease earn what they want for their limited requirements. The result of an exclusively literary education has been a deplorable congestion in positions and professions in which literary attainments are the requisite qualifications, while other walks of life have been almost untrodden by our young men for want of requisite training. Once a high European educationist speaking of the schools here and in other countries remarked that the difference between schools in India and in England was as great as the difference between chalk and cheese. I do not think this is a mere exaggeration. In other countries boys are trained not for paper examinations but for life. Even those who never go to a University can earn a decent living. In other provinces of India steps are being taken to make school education really useful to the taught. New methods are being tried in the Punjab and elsewhere. Government of Assam appointed a Secondary Education Enquiry Committee, of which I was a member. In a Government resolution that has been lately issued on the report of that Committee the desirability of adding to the school course art-craft or some practical vocational subjects has been admitted, and a hope has been expressed that this will bring about the much-needed correlation between the system of education and the question of employment. In Bengal everything seems to be stagnant. The old system is being followed in the old stereotyped manner, the aim being to carry on routine work. I think it is high time for a decisive and even drastic move in the matter. It is undesirable that every boy of average intelligence should be indiscriminately pushed up to the higher stages of instruction. There should be judicious elimination at every stage. Only boys of more than average intelligence and aptitude should enter the University and those possessing exceptional parts should proceed to the post-graduate stage. Boys thus eliminated at different stages of instruction should go to the technical, industrial, commercial and other institutions to be trained as artisans, mechanics and business men. Bifurcation of studies at certain stages of the high school course would be necessary for this purpose, this reorganising education to correlate with

the avenues of employment open to the people. I would avail myself of this opportunity to invite the serious attention of all concerned to this all-important question. Unless necessary steps are taken to remedy this deplorable state of things, a danger of great magnitude both to society and the administration might arise before long.

As regards elementary education, it is very much to be regretted that the Hon'ble Minister for Education has thought it proper to postpone the introduction of the Primary Education Bill—a measure that has long been overdue and the urgency of which cannot be overstated. I need scarcely say that an appallingly large number of boys of school-going age, not to speak of girls, receive no education whatever. I believe there is no other country, known as civilised, where such universal illiteracy prevails. The percentage of literates in Japan, which only about half a century ago was hardly anything better than a mere geographical expression, is 97, while in Bengal hardly 10 per cent. of the people are acquainted even with the Three R.'s. Such educational backwardness of the people is far from creditable to an administration that has been in existence for over a century and a half. The necessity for free and compulsory education cannot, therefore, be too strongly urged. Even in the neighbouring province of Assam, which is known as backward, primary education has been made free. But in Bengal no such step has yet been taken.

The prevailing system of primary education has not proved suitable to the masses. It has hardly improved either their knowledge or their condition; it has not made the cultivators better cultivators nor the artisans more efficient artisans than they were before. On the contrary, it has made the condition of these people worse by creating in them a distaste for manual labour and for their hereditary callings and mode of living; and, what is more to be regretted, by fostering among them an artificial taste for luxurious fashions and fineries. They hate to earn their livelihood by manual labour and at the same time know nothing else by which they can make an honest living. They do not care to improve agriculture or the processes of manufacture; on the contrary, they are anxious to follow, imitating the *bhodralogs*, occupations of an unproductive nature. Thus they accelerate rather than retard the decadence of indigenous industries and help to aggravate the economic collapse of the nation. If in these circumstances the masses do not care for the education given in our schools, they are not much to blame.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit was allowed by the Hon'ble the President to conclude his speech.)

The agricultural labouring classes in this province number about 95 per cent. of the population. An educational scheme suited to their requirements is more urgent than that required for the other 5 per cent. A mere general literary education should not be held up as a model for these people. Their education should be related to agriculture, to village arts and crafts, to the utilisation of rural talents for practical life.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Sir, in the first place I beg to offer my sincere sympathy, if he cares to have it, to the Hon'ble the Finance Member. At the very threshold of his office he is faced unfortunately with a deficit budget. The demands on his purse are many, I might say too many, and some of these are very urgent and important; but the means at his disposal are not only limited but very scanty. Sir, for these reasons I wholly sympathise with him. The Meston Award, to which reference has been made by the previous speaker, has been a halter on the neck of Bengal's finances. The injustice of not allowing Bengal to have her just and fair share of the export duty on jute and other increased taxations has been a wrong that has not been righted. The Government of Bengal as a body—my late great leader Sir Surendra Nath Bannerjea of revered memory, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Sir James Donald and last, but not least, the Hon'ble Mr. Marr have struggled hard with the Government of India to get justice done to Bengal, but so far without any tangible result. The only thing they got out of the Government of India was the remission of the contribution of Rs. 63 lakhs— the only relief granted to us, so much so that we, the people of Bengal, had to tax ourselves, not in a very small measure, to carry out the ordinary routine work of the administration. This is very unfortunate. The Meston Award, however, is not the only reason for the depleted state of the finances. The Government of which the Hon'ble the Finance Member is so important a factor is also partially responsible for the present state of the finances. Our resources have been frittered away on petty schemes and on affairs which were extravagant, and urgent and useful measures have been starved. Some time ago a Retrenchment Committee was appointed by the local Government to enquire into our finances and to see what reductions were possible. The Mookerjee Committee submitted its report and it was considered by the Government of Bengal, but we have as yet not found any reduction in our administration. Whenever we ask for a Government school in any place where there is none, we are told that the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations were that there should be deprovincialisation of educational institutions. So far so good, but what about the other recommendations to abolish either the Board of Revenue or the Revenue Secretary to Government. Can there be any justification for the existence of a dual administration at headquarters in regard to the revenues of Bengal? A matter coming from the Board of Revenue is considered by the Revenue Secretary who is naturally a much junior officer than the Hon'ble Member of the Board.

3 P.M.

Sir, what justification can there be for the existence of the Divisional Commissioners? At best they serve as post offices between the district officers and the Government of Bengal, and, Sir, that is an expensive luxury which Bengal can ill afford. We have been told just now that

our administration is a top-heavy administration. We have got in this Government four Members of the Executive Council, and if I may say so, there is hardly room for one, but they at least, if not useful, are ornamental. If they are so, why burden the province with so many Divisional Commissioners? Let the District Officers communicate direct with the Government of Bengal and let the Hon'ble Members have sufficient work for themselves. Then again, Sir, some time ago I asked for figures to show what amount had been spent on Presidency and Provincial Police, respectively. Unfortunately, I have not been favoured with an answer. If I could get that I would have been able to show what a mint of money has been spent on brick and mortar for police houses and thanas. Sir, if a casual observer came to the province he would find that the Government of Bengal meant the city of Calcutta, but the Government should remember that the people of Bengal do not live in cities and in towns, but in rural areas, and they are the most neglected people; the producers of wealth are left to the ravages of malaria, cholera and all sorts of diseases. Every attention is paid to the people of the city and, next, to the people living in municipal towns. Government is very liberal in its contributions to the municipalities for water-works, electric light, drainage and what not, and the plea put forward is that Government help those who are prepared to help themselves, and if the municipality is prepared to pay half the cost, Government is prepared to pay the other moiety. Government should remember that the rural people are poor and they cannot afford to subscribe and pay for the improvement of their areas and it is the poor that need help, not the rich. The people who live in municipal towns are more well-to-do than people living in rural areas. And what has been the result of the policy followed by Government? The result has been that in Bengal we have built up cities but have ruined the villages, and what has been, and what will be, the dire consequence of this policy? The people in rural areas will die out and at every census, if it is carefully examined, it will be found that the population in municipal areas have gone on very high—sometimes double, but there has been a rapid and gradual decline in the population of rural areas—at least in my part of the province. Sir, reference has been made to the question of unemployment and to the question of industrial development. They are important questions no doubt and I believe they will receive the attention of Government. But I want to press before Government and the House that agriculture is the most important industry of the province, if not of the country; and in order to have the resources of the province increased and to let the people live a healthy life, it is necessary that agriculture should be encouraged, fostered and helped. How to do it? By taking every step to see that the tiller of the land is healthy and happy. He is at the present moment suffering from various diseases—some physical and some political: physical on account of want of drinking water: on account of the marshy jungles his health is shattered, and what with the *peadas* of the zamindars, the

chaukidars of the police and the durwans of the money-lenders, his life is a life of misery. He produces the food not only for this province, but for other provinces and countries as well, but there is nobody to look after these half-fed and half-clad peasants and cultivators. Sir, questions have been put about irrigation. Government talks of irrigation canals and of projects which just take about 20 or 30 years to mature. A few years back before the introduction of the Reforms, when I happened to be a member of this House, I had the privilege of moving a resolution about agricultural improvements and excavation of irrigation tanks in rural areas. Government accepted that resolution and legislation was undertaken and an Act was passed so far back as 1920. That Act still exists, but the procedure laid down therein is not easy and there are difficulties in the way of acting according to it, but these difficulties can be easily solved if the Government takes the initiative in the matter in hand in right earnest. From time immemorial it has never been the case that rains should fall according to the time table laid down by the cultivator. It is quite natural, and it is sometimes the case, that the rains fail; but in olden days the irrigation tanks used to supply water to the fields. Those tanks are now silted up and the zamindars do not care to re-excavate them. He says that the Tenancy Act stands in his way, he does not get any increase in his income, and so the cultivator must undertake it and naturally the produce of the land suffers, and suffers to a large extent. Sir, the remedy lies in the first place to have that Act properly amended and I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government will take early steps to do this, because when this Bill was on the legislative anvil he and I both fought against certain provisions of the Bill and we lost. The next point is, Sir, we are told that there is no money, but I have found it from experience that if Government are bent upon or desire certain projects to be undertaken, the money is always forthcoming. If you want a stone front for the Legislative Chamber the money is there, if you want an increase in the ranks of high officials or to pay certain high officials some extra allowances or some extra pay for special duty, the money is always available. But when money is wanted either for primary education or for the purpose of improving the agricultural and sanitary condition of rural areas, we find the Government treasury empty. This state of things ought to be remedied without delay. Reference has been made to the Reforms and it has been said that it is due to the Reforms that this state of things has been brought about. With due respect to my honourable friend I must say that democratic system of Government is always more costly than an autocratic form of Government. If you want democracy you must pay for it. I certainly agree that the introduction of this system has done no good to the province; on the other hand it has to a large extent depleted the resources of the country and has stopped or prevented some very useful measure from being undertaken. Sir, before I take my seat I wish to join hands with the last speaker in saying that the

Primary Education Bill should be introduced in this House and passed into law as early as possible.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

3-15 P.M.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg leave to address my remarks to a House composed almost entirely of Government and Muslim members.

It is indeed very difficult to comment on the Budget, or on the working of the administration in Bengal in the face of impending bankruptcy; and almost the only problem we have to consider is how to get rid of the Meston Settlement. Now the Meston Settlement has worked for us, *inter alia*, the following evils:—

(*a*) there is not sufficient revenue in Bengal to carry on the ordinary administration;

(*b*) there are no funds at the disposal of Government to devote to the welfare of the people;

(*c*) there are no sources of revenue which may help to increase the income progressively year by year;

(*d*) the Ministers are unable to do anything substantial and put through those schemes for the benefit of the people for which we have been hungering for generations, and which the Reforms expected to facilitate;

(*e*) no interest is taken in the administration of the province by the Council, as there is nothing to administer beyond routine work;

(*f*) the Reforms have not succeeded in Bengal; and

(*g*) there is discontent amongst the people, inertia in the Government, lethargy in the Council, and desperation in general at this wrong which cannot be righted.

No Government can possibly exist that has to draw on its closing balance continuously for its ordinary expenditure, and this year our balance has been depleted to the extent of Rs. 1 crore and 3 lakhs. Now, we feel strongly, very strongly, that all this is wrong, that the settlement is unjust, that it is a matter of life and death for the people, and yet where do we stand? The people have made representations, so have the Government, and all of us are unanimous in condemning it, but to what result? After the greatest reluctance the provincial contribution has been remitted grudgingly—the sword is never withdrawn, but hangs over our head with an ever weakening thread. This controversy has shown one thing: that we cannot afford to be left to the tender mercies of Government of India that is necessarily torn between conflicting interests, or whose sense of justice has to give way

to the onslaught of other provincial Governments wallowing in superfluous money. It is difficult to speak of this in measured terms, for we find our life blood is being sucked to provide a surplus for the Government of India, to be spent on extravagant schemes, while our people here cry for water, for medicine, for health, for food, for education. And justice when it comes always comes too late, for except begging and representations and petitions, we may not do anything else which may help to make fair play expedient. We may make our representations before the Reform Commission on this score next cold weather, but if nothing happens then will the Government in Council be pleased to give us an assurance that they will follow the only possible course open to us, namely, refuse to carry on the Government and resign.

Nevertheless, permit me to offer some comments upon the Budget. While I am sorry for ourselves, I am really and truly sorry for the Hon'ble Member for Finance, inasmuch as the financial condition of the province has not permitted him to present a better Budget for the first time in his career, for we had hoped great things from him. We remember the days when Messrs. Kerr and Marr ruled our financial destinies; they are a happy memory, and it was with unalloyed pleasure that we received the news of the Hon'ble Member stepping into the shoes of his old chief. From him we expect more sympathy for the hopes and aspirations of the people, a kinder heart towards the transferred departments, a lesser tightening of the purse strings, and a less adamantine opposition to ministeral proposals than was offered by his department not so long ago. In any event, I thank him for his brave utterance, "it will be impossible for us to carry on" which has brought home both to the Government and the people, and we hope to whatever powers rule our destinies so cynically, unjustly and mercilessly, that it is a matter of life and death, and we shall be justified in adopting any means that may help us to live.

On the questions raised by the Budget, I do not think that the estimated increase of Rs. 4 lakhs from country spirit, or Rs. 2 lakhs from foreign liquor is at all justified. Parts of Bengal are already afflicted with famine, and it seems that this year agricultural distress will be acute. Hence the money set apart for Famine Relief is scarcely adequate; and we hope that the Finance Member will not hesitate to declare a famine when famine actually exists and to come up for a further grant as soon as events justify it. A few lakhs more from the closing balance will make scarcely any difference in our present hopeless condition.

There are some other matters that require our immediate attention, on the basis that some day justice will be done to us, and we shall have some money to spend on the bare necessities of our existence. The first and foremost is the question of Irrigation and Drainage. Government must recognise that this is the prime necessity of the province;

every area must be properly surveyed; attempts must be made to open up the old rivers and canals which flushed and drained the country; the injury caused to them by cross-country railway embankments, and reclamation of areas, must be repaired; and with it must accompany scientific drainage. All the various schemes should be collected together and work should be taken in hand in accordance with a definite plan. This may help to solve for us the problem of floods and drought, of malaria and cholera. But in order to take proper steps, we must have sufficient scientific knowledge and trained experts not only to initiate but to carry on the work. Already the Irrigation Engineers of the Punjab are suffering for their hasty schemes; the days of plenty have given way to malarial outbreaks and in water-logged areas the level of the sub-soil water has risen in the absence of any drainage facilities. The Magrahat scheme ushered in with so much *eclat* by the late Sir Surendranath Banerjea has succeeded in raising the malarial index from 7 to 47. These are old figures, perhaps the index figure has gone up further in the last 5 years. Government should immediately send young men, interested in hydrostatics and hydrodynamics, to places where irrigation and drainage have been brought to a fine art, such as Hungary and Egypt, to acquire the correct technical knowledge, and where experiments are still being made, such as the Punjab, so that they may profit by the mistakes of others. To-day we are peculiarly fortunate in having in our midst that great expert, Sir William Wilcox, and we should take every possible advantage of his presence, and start on a sane and comprehensive policy.

I desire to congratulate Government on the formation of the Main Drainage Board. I hope it will set itself to work as soon as possible, for I fear the time is not far distant, if matters are allowed to drift as they are and the Bidyadhari dries up, and refuses to perform its natural function of flushing and draining the surrounding areas, that Calcutta will soon become a hot-bed of malaria. I may be wrong, but I seem to think that the increase of mosquitoes this year, is ascribable to this cause.

I do not know what schemes Government has up its sleeve for the eradication of water-hyacinth. May I suggest one, which may possibly have been suggested by others, but not to my knowledge. Government, after proper propaganda and preparation, and securing the co-operation of all bodies, political and social, should proclaim a Water-Hyacinth Week. Every able-bodied person should be encouraged in the name of his belly, to help in collecting the pest, drying it and firing it. I feel certain that if the European Magistrate or Superintendent of Police steps into the water with a rake in his hand, a hundred will get drowned in the rush. I think this system might be given a trial before we are driven to take penal action, which after all will be directed mainly against the Government, for Government are the greatest sinners, and it is the Government canals and rivers that harbour

and breed the pest. Schoolboys and college students, Boy Scouts and St. John's Ambulance men, who impress us in their displays with their latent potentialities should be requisitioned, and I feel certain will do well. Not long ago, in Berhampore, at the request of its energetic officiating Vice-Chairman, the students of the College combined with a mighty will and rid the place of cholera before it had time to spread. In England, all the schoolboys were given a holiday, I think for a week, to collect blackberries for the soldiers, and the scheme was a great success.

May I now turn to a most pressing need of the City of Calcutta which it is the duty of Government to supply. The hospital accommodation in Calcutta is far too limited, and every day people are turned away from the hospitals. I need not refer here to the cases of neglect that sometimes occur and perhaps are bound to occur in the hospitals—I have in mind one or two cases, but I would rather not go into details—I can communicate them to any responsible officer; the people to whom they refer are dead and gone, but I may say this much that this neglect is not confined only to the hospitals where Indians are admitted. But take them as they are, they are still a boon to the people; for the poor it is their last chance. I will give two recent instances. The men are still alive. A little lad serving as a peon in an English firm running across the road to buy food for himself, was run over by motor-lorry, and his leg smashed. He was taken to four hospitals and refused admittance. At length one of the Burra Sahibs of the firm where he was employed accompanied him and he was admitted into the Campbell Hospital. His leg has been amputated. I sent a servant, who was afflicted with kala-azar, and who has nobody to look after him, who is poor, ill, weak and almost starving, to the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, for I was under the impression that the school caters for tropical diseases. I had the temerity to recommend him as an indoor patient; the man was refused admittance, was not even treated as an outdoor patient, and the only advice that he received was to go home. He is on a fair way to going to the Home from which he will never return. I have written to the Principal of the school with regard to it but as yet have received no reply. Now there are innumerable such instances. May I hope that Government will take the earliest possible steps to establish a hospital of decent proportions. As a site, I would recommend somewhere between Kidderpore and Garden Reach, for there is no hospital anywhere in the vicinity of such large and densely populated areas.

I find that a certain sum of money has been set apart for the Ranchi Mental Hospital. Now it is known that the hospital at Ranchi is so over crowded, that the authorities are not prepared to take any but criminal and dangerous lunatics. As regards the others there is no help, unless they gain the right of admittance by murdering some one. Now there is a Mental Observation Hospital here at Bhowanipore,

with doctors, warders, cells and garden all complete; why should not this be turned into a Mental Hospital to accommodate a few lunatics. The cost will not be considerable; and a real need will be supplied.

May I suggest that Government should explore the possibility of treating municipal sullage for manuring purposes. This requires trained experts, and it would be advisable to send some young men to learn the various methods of treating sullage. Most of the municipal towns are next to agricultural lands; and this would enure to the benefit of agriculture as well as of the municipalities; it will dispose of sewage in a cleanly manner; and provide manure for the poor agriculturists. A staff would always be ready to advise and undertake the necessary work.

Now I do not know whether to congratulate ourselves or not on the partial transference of the activities of the Turf Club from Calcutta to Barrackpore. Years ago I had tabled a motion for the abolition of racing in Calcutta, particularly of betting on the books. I had no occasion to move it then, I think; but I almost wished I had. The evils are too great and too apparent and they grow apace, and round the holocaust circle the poor, who can ill afford to lose the three rupees that they lay on the favourite. For what is the pastime of the rich is the undoing of the poor, who cannot understand why some races are called jockey's races, why any horse from a particular stable can win a race, why and how jockeys get jostled against the railings and suffer bodily harm. And now this evil has gone into the heart of the mill area, and to its gambling and drinking dens, is added one more cause of poverty and misery only a bit more refined; to its sweated labour, is added one more means of fleecing the ignorant of their hard earned money. Government will soon have to wake up and take stock of this, as well as the general condition of the labour population near and about Calcutta. But I would suggest that meanwhile in lieu of the hospitality which Government have afforded to the Club for all these years, and which has made it so hugely rich, the club should present to the public its race enclosures in Calcutta for Government to utilise it in the best manner possible.

The question of the separation of the Judicial and Executive is a perennial source of comment. This question is being shelved from year to year. When better days dawn we shall go into it thoroughly, but today I hope Government will discontinue the practice of taking stock of the number of Police cases in which accused are acquitted by individual Magistrates.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Mr. Suhrawardy. But I can allow you two minutes.

Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: One word more and I have done. I have made no comments on the Educational policy or the increase of pay of the Calcutta Police; and hope to participate in the discussion when

the matters are specifically brought before the Council, if such discussion can lead to anything worthwhile. But before I sit down I would like to draw the attention of Government to a nuisance that can be suppressed by the authorities with the greatest ease and with no expense, namely, the nuisance of prowling taxis, of brilliant side-lights and raucous bulbous horns. At present there are a number of cars, particularly of English make, that use brilliant side-lights and almost blind the driver approaching from the opposite side. They may be met by the hundreds any evening ; and yet they continue to be registered and passed without any hindrance. I once had occasion to complain of this to the Deputy Commissioner of Police in general terms, and the only reply that I received was that they would take action only if I would complain against a specific person, as if it is only the public that has eyes, and the Police, with all their agents, are too blind to see and take action by themselves. Again, there is scarcely any one here who has not had to suffer, particularly those who live in flats, or whose houses border streets and lanes without any grounds, from the nerve-racking sounds produced from reedy horns by expert Sikhs, who with a twist of their wrist can produce such hideous noises as the makers of the horns never dreamt of. The nuisance would be much mitigated if taxis were not permitted to prowl; but it would be done away with altogether if only horns that could not be so manipulated were used. Taxis that possessed such horns should not be passed in the first instance and a check could be kept on them at the annual inspections, or when they are brought up on the usual charges. Again, if the prohibition against electric horns were raised, and such electric sirens as are used on up-to-date Ford Cars—not-too-loud, not-too-piercing, and yet quite insistent and sufficient—permitted, then the evil will entirely disappear.

3-30 P.M.

Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NUNDY: Mr. President, though I cannot cogratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member on having produced a Budget which has appeared clad in a panoply of war I fully appreciate the diffidence with which he has introduced it. In his speech he has not only adopted an apologetic tone but has fully and frankly admitted that no one realises more than he does that this is a very unsatisfactory Budget which does not do justice to any department of Government and specially the transferred departments with which this Council is intimately concerned. And though he has made every attempt to shift the responsibility from his broad shoulders to the financial settlement under the Meston Award and disarm criticism by confession of shortcomings, I cannot help saying that there are weak joints in his armour which could have been avoided; glaring defects which should have been rectified.

The whole Budget is depressing to the last degree, the estimated expenditure exceeding the estimated receipts by a considerable amount.

I agree with him that the financial settlement was wrong *ab initio*. But when we cannot override the fact that it is there we must cut our coat according to the cloth at our disposal. It was with this avowed intention that the Retrenchment Committee was appointed. And we cannot help deploring that the recommendations of that Committee have not been fully adopted. The Government of India has not insisted upon their pound of flesh and the Government of Bengal have not allowed their placid slumber to be disturbed by disquieting dreams of their responsibilities of improving the health of the province and dispelling the darkness of ignorance. In many cases they have been satisfied with the work of the day taking no thought for the morrow and indulging in the thought "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

On the receipt side I take strong exception to the Land Revenue being augmented by recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges amounting to Rs. 17 lakhs. The Finance Member has said that "the principal source of revenue under this head are—Land Revenue, fixed collections, collections from Government Estates, and recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges." But on the very next page he has been constrained to admit that under Excise there will be a fall of revenue because of "scarcity in certain parts of the province due to drought and a consequent rise in the price of rice." With the dark shadow of scarcity in the horizon would it not be advisable to keep the collection of recoveries on account of Survey and Settlement charges in abeyance for a year; Sir, I represent a district which has been hard hit by failure of crops and where it has already become necessary to have recourse to relief measures with a view to mitigate suffering; and I shall be failing in my duty towards those whom I represent if I do not raise my voice in protest against the relentless course the Government propose to take in this matter.

The Budget does not provide money for any comprehensive scheme of general improvement. The province cries aloud for measures calculated to free her from the ravages of malaria. Cholera slays its thousands, malaria its ten thousands. Malaria, said Lord Ronaldshay in 1918, is perhaps "the most wide-spread and the most virulent of all the diseases which afflict the people of Bengal." "Every year," added he, "there occur in Bengal from 350,000 to 4 lakhs of deaths from this cause alone. But a mere enumeration of the deaths gives but a faint idea of the ravages of the disease. It is probable that at least a hundred attacks of malaria occur for every death and it is estimated that this disease is alone responsible for 20 crores of days of sickness in the Presidency." Since then nothing—absolutely nothing—has been done to combat this scourge which is a leading cause of poverty and many other disagreeables in a great part of Bengal. And yet there are countries which have been made malaria free, where health has been restored to the people. Under the circumstances we cannot be satisfied with the increase of Rs. 4,78,000

under the head "Medical," specially when we find that changes in the method of accounting and increased grants to medical institutions, including hospitals attached to muffasal medical schools and larger provision for the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi, mostly for capital expenditure, mainly account for this increase. A provision of Rs. 6 lakhs for the expansion of the Public Health Organisation scheme in the districts and a small grant to local bodies for quinine must count as dust in the balance in which the requirements—the urgent necessities of the Presidency—must be weighed.

While this is how Public Health has been dismissed with a few crumbs, a very large slice out of the bread has gone to the pampered pets of the Government—I mean the Police. "A lump provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made for the revision of the pay of the constables, head constables and sergeants of the Calcutta Police" After the deplorable display of efficiency in the streets of Calcutta on the 3rd February last the Finance Member must not be disappointed if the House feel chary to approve of his action in providing for this extravagant expenditure. I for one fail to understand why the European sergeants who already enjoy disproportionately higher pay than their Indian compatriots should have further addition to it while Indian Assistant Sub-Inspectors are left to shiver in the cold of neglect? Under the circumstances I cannot help characterising the proposal to increase the pay of this special branch of the police as a pompous pageant for a perishing province. Inefficient, arrogant and unpopular—the police do not deserve more money to be spent on them till they prove that they deserve better treatment.

I am sorry to find, Sir, that the portion of the Budget which concerns itself with Education betrays an utter lack of the sense of proportion. While it has been possible merely to provide for further expenditure of Rs. 3,39,000 on education, Rs. 2,69,000 have been earmarked "for increased grants to the Dacca University mainly for the construction of the Moslem Hall, for the maintenance of the University buildings and for the sewerage scheme of the University." Sir, I am not averse to make reasonable grants for a residential University; but I cannot but say that the Dacca University is assuming the alarming characteristics of the Old Man of the Arabian Nights. To sanction an additional grant of this nature when the Hon'ble Minister for Education cannot tackle the problem of free and primary education for want of funds is criminal extravagance for which the Government is being trounced by the public press.

There is yet another item, although the expenditure is not directly debitable to the head "Education" to which I cannot help referring. A sum of Rs. 2,14,000 has been set apart for the acquisition of land for providing a play-ground and swimming tank for the students of the Calcutta Madrasah and the Islamia College, Calcutta. Considering the

critical condition of our finances this sum is by no means negligible. Can the Hon'ble the Finance Member advance the plea of urgency in the matter of providing these students with a costly play-ground and a swimming bath when no other institution in Calcutta can boast of such luxuries?

When practically no move has been made to provide more money for Sanitation and Education it is idle to hope that the Agriculture and Industries Departments have been liberally treated. Though the Hon'ble the Finance Member has said that these two departments have got their share of increase we find that the estimate for the next year for the Industries Department is higher only by over a lakh than the revised estimate of this year; it provides for as many as seven new schemes for which the magnificent sum of Rs. 57,773 has been provided. Agriculture has not fared better, Sir, we have heard much of the Agricultural Commission, but are the Government going to work on the assumption that "to write over a certain area of paper will fill the collapsed cubicles of the Agricultural classes in Bengal"?

It is my duty on the present occasion to draw the attention of the House to some of the glaring defects of the Budget. I admire the sincerity with which the Hon'ble the Finance Member has attempted to make the best of a bad job but unfortunately for him and more unfortunately for the Presidency all that can be said of his first Budget is that, like the Curate's egg it is good in parts and cannot reflect credit on its author.

Khan Sahib ABDUS SATTAR: Sir, to-day we have met here to discuss and criticise the Budget as we do every year. From year to year we have been following this procedure. Year comes in and year goes out, and almost at this time a discussion of the Budget takes place at which a number of suggestions, a number of schemes, are made without any effect. At the end of the year, when we come to review our work, we find that those suggestions and those schemes have not been considered by Government. Especially, in this Budget we do not find that any suggestion or any scheme, which was proposed last time, has been given effect to. So, practically, is it not a waste of time to have a discussion of this nature—a discussion which serves no useful purpose—every year? Of course, the members who come here speak something and then go away. Last year, I remember that not only I myself, but also a number of other members, complained as regards the manner in which the Budget was framed and the way in which it was presented; but the same sort of method has been followed this year without any variation. So, this is a thing which perhaps nobody on the face of the earth can alter: what is the use in thus wasting the time of this House in discussion? I at least see no purpose in it. Therefore, I do not propose to deal at length or in great detail with the

various items of the Budget, as has been done by previous speakers. I would only make a few observations on the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has very frankly and candidly told us that his is not a pleasant duty to perform—though he has got to perform it—in presenting this Budget. He has not been able to satisfy any of us with this Budget; nor has he been able to do justice to any department of Government. He has not told us the remedies he proposes, nor has he made any suggestions for future remedies that can be applied. All that he has said is about the Meston Settlement, which, he thinks, might be reconsidered when the Royal Commission finally reports. Probably, the Government may put the matter up before the Commission. I should like to bring one thing to the notice of the Hon'ble the Finance Member. It is about the way in which the Budget is presented. We have been complaining severely that the Budget, as it is presented, does not show whether there is any superfluity or any excess of expenditure in any department of the Government. I suggest that he should adopt such method as would show such excess of expenditure and thus enable Government to curtail the expenditure. He should devise some method to that end and adopt it. Further, the adoption of such a method would help in finding out whether there is any need for increasing expenditure in departments where more money is needed, especially in the departments on the transferred side—I mean, Education, Agriculture and Industries Departments.

3-45 P.M.

The Budget should show that Government has taken up in hand schemes which would gradually tend to the amelioration of the condition of the departments, and I am of opinion that the methods now pursued by Government are wrong. The budget should also show that there is a tendency, a desire on the part of Government, to work in such a way that the suggestions of the Council may be given effect to later on in the year at least. It is necessary at this stage to take in hand drastic reductions in expenditure, and there should be more and more facilities given to the nation-building departments, regarding which complaints are frequently made and have been made.

There is one thing I should mention in connection with the Royal Commission just now in India. When they came here the Council should invite them to go and spend some time in the villages. When they come here to towns, they give them ovation, and receive them, etc., but they cannot realise the condition in which villagers live, how they spend their lives, how they get their drinking water, what they eat and how they pass their lives with the slightest of education. Therefore, they should be invited to spend a large part of their time in the villages if possible. They will then get themselves acquainted with

the condition of village life. If the village people die out from cholera, kala-azar, malaria and if the villages become a barren tract of land, whom will the Government govern? What will the Government do with the people living only in the cities? Therefore it is the primary duty of persons interested in the well-being of the people to see at first hand the condition of the villages and also to see what steps should be taken to improve the finances of the country.

Another thing I should like to mention, which has already been referred to by other speakers and it is about education. The Hon'ble Finance Member has said, in spite of his pathetic confession that the Budget is not a satisfactory Budget, and he has congratulated himself upon his statement that education has been receiving increasing attention at the hands of Government. For new expenditure Rs. 16 lakhs has been allotted, of which Rs. 9 lakhs has been allotted for the transferred departments; out of this sum some Rs. 3 or 4 lakhs has been given for brick and mortar, *i.e.*, building a hall and a swimming tank or bath, of which the Maharaj-Kumar was complaining just now, and the remaining Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs has been distributed among all the departments. Although the Finance Member admits that there are many urgent and important schemes which the Ministers desire to be undertaken, he allots such a large sum of money for projects which are not very urgent—but I do not grudge. His Excellency's staff and household spend yearly about Rs. 6 lakhs but the same amount is thought to be sufficient for the education, sanitation and agriculture of the teeming population of Bengal! Therefore I say that this amount is very, very inadequate and insignificant.

One word about education—secondary education. It has become so very costly that the middle class people can hardly send their boys to school now. Formerly our boys used to write on plaintain leaves but now they must have exercise books costing 3 to 4 annas each otherwise the teachers won't allow them to sit. So, Sir, college education as well as school education is entailing an enormous and almost impossible expenditure!

We all desire that primary education should prevail among the masses. In my village there is a primary school with one teacher who gets a paltry amount of Rs. 3 to 4 a month from the District Board and even that once in 6 or 7 months! He opens the school after tending his cattle in the fields once or twice a month, and when the Inspector comes, (they are required to visit 3 or 4 times) he collects some students and shows them to the Inspector, makes a bill for Rs. 2 or 3. This is the state of primary education in the villages which is most unsatisfactory. Unless something satisfactory is done there cannot be contentment among the people. If there is discontentment then it is not good for the people.

I do not wish to waste the time of the Council by making a lengthy speech, although there is a good deal to be said every item in the Budget, but I would finally urge that we should adopt a method of curtailing the expenses of Government and of affording gradually increasing facilities to the nation-building departments; otherwise we shall be nowhere.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The annual exposition of the financial state and prospects of the province, I believe, always affords abundant interest to the members of this House—at least it used to do so in the first Reformed Bengal Legislative Council. But things have undergone a great change since then and the emptiness of the opposition benches as well as the benches on this side of the House clearly indicates that that interest is lacking. I am glad to note that there is no corresponding lack of insight and care on the part of the Hon'ble the Finance Member because he has tried his best to meet the situation. I might say that his anxiety to meet the situation verges on despondency and I can assure him that at least the members belonging to this side of the House, though very few of them are present here to-day, fully share his anxiety and they are ready to place their co-operation and services at his disposal in fighting the financial battle of Bengal whether before the Royal Commission or before the Government of India. I wish, Sir, that it were possible for the members of this House irrespective of their political creed to co-operate with Government and fight the Meston Award which is admittedly responsible for the partial if not the complete failure of the Reforms in Bengal. The difficulties which the Hon'ble Ministers had to meet during the last six years were not only political but they were largely financial also.

Now, Sir, turning to the Budget I find that the first item is Land Revenue. The expenditure on the management of Government Estates has increased by Rs. 50,000 but we are glad to note that this demand includes a contribution to Khas Mahal dispensaries and hospitals and also a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for Agricultural and sanitary improvements.

The next thing is Survey and Settlement. Of course this is a matter on which we have never agreed with the Government and I am afraid we shall never agree, because this expenditure, I maintain, is neither for the moral nor for the material advancement of the people; it is neither for the good of the tenant nor for the good of the landlords. The only result of the Survey and Settlement operations is that it has created an ill-feeling, which I am afraid will last for generations

between the landlords and the tenants. I do not know for whose benefit this scheme is being so obstinately—if may use the expression—pursued by Government.

The Hon'ble Finance Member expects an increased income of Rs. 5 lakhs from Excise and I think an equal amount from Stamps. Considering the failure of crops the effect of which has not yet been felt in the major portion of the province, I should like to observe that the Hon'ble Member is rather optimistic

Then about capital expenditure there is a provision of over Rs. 22 lakhs for Irrigation and about Rs. 12 lakhs for Police buildings. These two figures compare very unhappily and this increase in Police expenditure is not likely to be appreciated by the public. There is an increase of Rs. 4 lakhs on the Presidency Police, which has gone up from Rs. 32 lakhs to Rs. 41 lakhs since 1925. On the contrary the expenditure on the District Police has remained almost stationary. Sir, I am not one of those who are of the opinion that Government should do away with the Police; on the other hand I feel there is a great necessity for strengthening the Police in this country for peace and good Government, in the interest of the people and not in the interest of Government. But still I am of opinion that the increase of expenditure on the Calcutta Police is unwarranted and cannot be properly justified.

In Irrigation schemes there is a large demand of about Rs. 22 lakhs of which Rs. 8,00,000 go towards the Damodar Canal. This is a provision for which the people of Burdwan and a part of the Hooghly district have every reason to be grateful to the Government and when this scheme is completed it will bring great relief to the people, and I wish it were possible to undertake more such schemes. There were one or two small schemes for Irrigation which were financed from revenue but I do not find any such provision in the current year's Budget— for instance the Muchipara silt-bearing project was one of them. The Government really spent very small amounts on the schemes and they were undertaken without proper survey and without proper consultation with local opinion; they were undertaken simply to maintain the activities of the Irrigation Department and not for the good of the people, and I can say from my personal experience, being a man of the locality, that the money has been completely wasted, and the position of the flood-stricken villages has been rendered considerably worse. There was no high flood last season and so its result could not be fully examined, but I am almost sure that if there were any high flood the result would be disastrous; so the money has been completely wasted.

As regards education I find that there is a provision for Physical and Assistant Physical Director. I do not know what they do, but there is a provision of Rs. 30,000 to meet their pay. Their activities are at

least not known to the public, they might be confined to the Writers' Buildings. Sir, there is a grant of Rs. 23 lakhs for primary schools. I wish it were possible for the Government, who are so anxious to tax the people for compulsory primary education to increase this grant.

Sir, as regards Medical, there are certain very good things: an expenditure of Rs. 18,000 for an anatomical museum for the Ronaldshay School, a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for the extension of the Eden Hospital and also provisions for medical schools at Jalpaiguri and Chittagong. I wish it were possible for the Government to increase the grant to rural dispensaries which remains stationary, the figure being Rs. 8,50,000. Then, there is also provision for mental hospitals. There is an increased demand for this and, I think, I can congratulate the Government for that.

Sir, as regards Public Health there is an increase of about a lakh of rupees. The grant for free vaccination is about Rs. 50,000 and I wish that it were possible for the Government to increase this grant. Sir, we who belong to the mufassal know very well how urgent it is and how very incumbent it is on the Government to increase the expenditure on this item.

[At 4-15 P.M. the Council was adjourned for 15 minutes.]

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present when the Council reassembled it was adjourned at 4-30 P.M. till 2-30 P.M. on Thursday, the 1st March, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 1st March, 1928, at 2-30 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (RAJA MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURY, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 79 nominated and elected members.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhury, of Santosh): Gentlemen of the Council, I came across a paragraph in to-day's *Statesman* which I think I should read to you for the writer presumptuously presupposes my decision with regard to a matter in which you are vitally interested. He drifted away from his responsibility to invent reasons for such a decision—an attempt which in my opinion should not be allowed to go uncondemned. The paragraph runs thus:

"Under the Rules the President may or may not allow a discussion of the motion to-day and the chances are that he will defer the date till the vacant seats have been filled."

Gentlemen, I was really shocked for I could hardly believe that the *Statesman* could actually be led away from truth by gossip-mongers, and I think it is clearly my duty to give a piece of friendly advice to the Editor, namely, that he should exercise more rigorous control over irresponsible contributors.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1928-29.

The general discussion of the Budget was then resumed.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, one feels a good deal of delicacy to adversely criticise a Budget which its author himself describes as very unsatisfactory. Indeed the Hon'ble Mr. Marr deserves to be congratulated on the refreshing frankness he has exhibited in estimating the value of his first performance as Finance Member as well as on the general note of sympathy manifest throughout his speech. No one devoid of a sympathetic heart can ever be expected to help Bengal out of her present deplorable state, and it is highly gratifying to find that the Hon'ble Mr. Marr whom Bengal

will look upon for a term of years for some amelioration of her financial embarrassments, starts with a valuable stock-in-trade in the shape of a sympathetic heart. Yet at the same time it is a pity to find that in the matter of actual achievements this stock-in-trade has not been turned to good account so far as Finance Member's initial performance is concerned.

In exhibiting his merchandise he has only too scrupulously followed the beaten track and has furnished the old dingy shelves of the administration in the same old fashion as his predecessors. There is scarcely a new stall added or a new article exhibited. The fine sentiments given expression to have failed to produce the slightest impression upon the "steel frame" of the administration. The budget he has presented is nothing but a facsimile replica of its numerous predecessors and the injustice systematically done to the nation-building departments is reproduced to the chagrin of all well-wishers of the land. For immunity from responsibility for this neglect the Hon'ble Member seeks shelter under the inequitable Meston Settlement. Speaking of this injustice to the transferred departments he says "it is solely due to our financial settlement and until this is put right we can expect little or no amelioration." He seems to think that with the Meston Settlement unsettled he would be able to marshall the assets of the Government to the best advantage of the various nation building schemes. He must have been, therefore, and so have we all been, exceedingly gratified to find that within a few days of his giving out the Bengal Government's firm determination to continue the fight for the remission of our provincial contributions under the said financial settlement and only a day after he was assured of help and comradeship in this great battle by an honourable lieutenant on the floor of this House, the papers have made the dramatic announcement of the permanent annulment of these contributions as proposed by Sir Basil Blackett in the next year's Imperial Budget introduced in the Legislative Assembly. I congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Marr and the other Members of our Government on this early victory, our friend, the hon'ble lieutenant on the consequent immunity from shedding his valuable blood which may now be kept in reserve for the more strenuous battles, and last but not the least, Sir Basil Blackett on his superb performance for which the Government of Bengal and the people of Bengal owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Now, with the nightmare of the Meston Settlement exercised may I ask the Hon'ble Member for Finance how does he propose to do justice to the nation-building departments? Is he prepared to allot the whole amount thus released to nation-building schemes of the transferred departments? Let action and not words speak. It will perhaps be said that even with this remission our budget is a deficit budget. But it should not be forgotten that Government was prepared

to do without this remission and so by spending this Rs. 54 lakhs for the benefit of the people the Government would not be placed in a worse position than they were prepared to meet. If there is any solicitude for the transferred departments let it be real and let it not be exhausted in mere lip sympathy.

I feel prompted to ask the Hon'ble Finance Member just another question. Can full justice be done to the transferred departments even with the Meston Settlement unsettled? The crying demands of primary education, agriculture and public health are to my mind too great for the small sum released by the remission of our provincial contributions. No amount of financial jugglery played with this amount can work wonders so as to satisfy the legitimate demands of this province? The stereotyped policy of feeding the transferred departments with the surplus crumbs thrown out by the pet and pampered departments will never conduce to the healthy growth of the former. Neither can the burden of taxation under which Bengal has already been groaning be increased to an unlimited extent. What Bengal needs, therefore, is not merely the slow process of evolution but revolution pure and simple. You have so long been robbing Peter to pay Paul; you must now relieve Paul of all his illicit gains and pay back what is Peter's due. To do this one must have unbounded courage and extraordinary skill. The whole system will have to be overhauled and the cruel Surgeon's knife will have to be ruthlessly applied to those parts of the body politic which have been pampered to a plethoric growth at the expense of other more useful limbs. What Bengal needs, therefore, is a revolutionary Finance Member; and let us hope that the Hon'ble Mr. Marr with his courage and capacity will prove such a revolutionary Finance Member, if not now, at least in the year to come.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: I beg to offer my congratulations to the Hon'ble the Finance Member for the deficit Budget which he has presented to this Council, for the simple fact that it has revealed to the public of Bengal as well as to the Government of India, as also to those estimable gentlemen who have come from England to review the present constitutional position in India the inequities of the present financial settlement. I congratulate him as just on the eve of the Simon Commission he has been able to disclose this financial position. He has done us a signal service, more than if he could have given us a surplus Budget. I join with other members of the House in offering my grateful thanks to Sir Basil Blackett for the permanent remission of the provincial contribution. The problem however does not rest there, so far as the finances of Bengal are concerned. When I look into the internal details of the Budget, I am afraid I am not able to offer my congratulations to the Hon'ble the Finance Member for the simple reason that he has not been able to show any way out

of our present difficulties. We have been living in our surplus balances since the days of the Reforms. The Reforms began with an opening balance of Rs. 2 crores and 73 lakhs of rupees; next year it was reduced to a deficit of Rs. 42 lakhs, though at the end of the year the closing balance came to be Rs. 90 lakhs, or in other words there was an increased taxation of Rs. 1 crore and 33 lakhs in course of the year. We then find that the Reforms began with an opening balance of Rs. 2 crores and 73 lakhs: it came to be reduced year after year till in 1926-27 when we again got a surplus of Rs. 2 crores 38 lakhs and 36 thousand. The balance this year, however, has come down to Rs. 84 lakhs including the contribution to the Government of India in the Budget. In spite of this serious situation, in spite of actual deficit on receipts and expenditure we have not yet heard any proposals for retrenchment from the Hon'ble the Finance Member. There has been no attempt to regularise the expenditure, no suggestions from the Finance Member for any new sources of revenue beyond that we have been naively told, as if we are so many financial babies, that "we have been compelled to cut our expenditure down to the minimum, and have been able to allow for very little new expenditure on the reserved side." I will not talk of the hackneyed phrase "the economic condition of the people," but I shall take the Hon'ble Member for half a minute through the amount of money contributed by Bengal in the last 10 years. If you study the finances you will find that under the heads of Excise, Stamps, Registration, Justice, Education, Medical, Public Health and Scheduled Taxes the receipts in the coming year as compared with the receipts of 1917-18 have increased by 254 lakhs of rupees, or in other words, Bengal has contributed under these seven heads alone a sum of money amounting to Rs. 254 lakhs more than what it paid in 1917-18. When we consider the heads of expenditure on the transferred side especially Education, Medical, Public Health and Agriculture, we find that these four departments have been allowed only about 114 lakhs of rupees more than what was spent in 1917-18. Including the heads of Industries, Excise and Civil Works we find increased expenditure under all these heads together has been just Rs. 1 crore 65 lakhs and 23 thousand; in other words under these heads though Bengal paid Rs. 2 crores 54 lakhs and received only Rs. 1 crore 65 lakhs.

Sir, the present Budget represents a lack of proportion in determining the comparative importance of various schemes, and it seems there has been a scramble between the different departments for money which has resulted in important schemes being held up in one department, while unimportant schemes in other departments have found a safe place in the Budget. Such is our anxiety to better the police and the administration that most of the days allotted to demands for grants are spent out and all motions for cut in the most important waste department, namely, the Public Works Department, have to be guillotined by the President. We have been providing more and more money for

this department, with perpetual addendum that the Public Works Department have not been able to spend all the money that has been budgeted for it. It is wrong that the Public Works Department should demand and be allotted more money than they can spend. It is wrong that this money could not be allotted to other departments. I will give a few illustrations as to how important schemes have been held up.

2-45 P.M.

I know a few, but I think the secretaries will be able to give a very large number. I find recently there was a circular by the Government of Bengal that the cost of *serum*, which is paid for by local self-governing bodies, will be remitted by the Government in the present Budget, and the District Boards hoped to get this relief. We are now being told that financial difficulties stand in the way of remitting to the District Boards the cost of this serum. It is a well-known fact that the Public Health Department has been crying for a few more publicity and propaganda officers, but I find not a single pie has been added to the Public Health Department. The next point is the pay of the Veterinary Sub-Assistant Surgeons which has not been revised since 1918, and I do not know when we will be able to see that. We find that hostel accommodation has not been provided for the Moslem College students at Krishnagar. A paltry sum of Rs. 8,000 has been added to for primary education; no provision has been made for canals and waterways in Western Bengal. But the Public Works Department Budget is swelling year after year. I find that the Public Works Department expenditure on roads and communication is Rs. 31 lakhs. If you examine these figures you will find that Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and the Duars have secured Rs. 22 lakhs out of this Rs. 31 lakhs. This is a serious matter for the consideration of the hon'ble members of this House, and I am only drawing the attention of members to it in the hope that when discussing the Budget they might give due regard to this. It is no wonder that the Reforms have been decried so much.

Coming to Irrigation, I ask the Hon'ble the Nawab Bahadur, Member in charge of the Irrigation Department, and Mr. Nelson, the present Irrigation Secretary, whether they themselves have been able to understand the Irrigation Budget. Can they make other members understand what the details are? It is so complicated that it cannot be understood. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department said the other day that his department had no information as to whether the Bhairab had become a running stream. I may give the information to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Addams-Williams, that there is only one small stream named Chota Bhairab in

Murshidabad and it runs into the Jalangi River. This Bhairab has come to be a flowing river now. If the Hon'ble Member in charge will kindly advise his Chief Engineer to look into the condition of this small river, it will raise great hopes in the minds of the people on the two sides of the river Jalangi. So far as the Irrigation Department is concerned, its Budget is presented in a manner which, I have said, is unintelligible to the average mass and I find people do not take any interest in it. The Irrigation Department has not yet been able to bring forward any irrigation scheme for the improvement of rivers and waterways in Western Bengal.

May I also ask the Hon'ble Member in charge of Irrigation, in this connection as to who is responsible for the waste of public money, now that the Grand Trunk Canal scheme has been abandoned? I think it is a well-known fact that long before the Grand Trunk Canal project was even fully matured, the dredger *Ronaldshay* was purchased at a cost of about 64 lakhs of rupees. I want to know who will be responsible for this loss of public money. This Rs. 64 lakhs would have solved the problem of the waterways, or the water-supply in Bengal or the sanitary needs of the people. But simply because Mr. Addams-Williams is supposed to be the greatest river engineer in Bengal, he will not hear anybody. I may ask whether the Hon'ble Member is prepared to place all the papers in connection with this scheme before the public, so that they may have an opportunity of knowing who is responsible for this waste of public money. The matter is so important from the public point of view, and so much has to be done for the improvement of the rivers and waterways in Bengal, that any amount which is wasted is a matter of much concern to every citizen in this Presidency.

I will only refer again to one or two items in the Public Works Department Budget. I find that Rs. 1,43,000 has been sanctioned for the hostel to the Ahsanullah School of Engineering. I find the Presidency College has been given Rs. 24,000 to level its compound. We were students of the Presidency College and we know the compound was a little bad, but the College had the best of reputation and yet we are spending Rs. 24,000 almost annually for levelling the College compound, the compound becoming more and more good, but we all know how the atmosphere of the Presidency College has changed recently. I find a sum of Rs. 2,14,000 has been provided for a play-ground for the Islamia College, Rs. 2,00,000 for the Moslem Hall, a sum of Rs. 1,32,000 for the sewerage scheme of the Dacca University and Rs. 56,000 for the Alipore Reformatory. I want to know from the Public Works Department whether it is possible for them to spend all this in the next financial year.....

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: Sir, much had been discussed yesterday and there is very little for me to say.

I join in the chorus of disapproval of the Bengal Budget as presented to members of this House. The Hon'ble the Finance Member, has come into a heritage of woe. There have been lean years in the past, and the Hon'ble Mr. Marr has succeeded to those lean years; and he must realise too well that in spite of loans and advances he has produced little or nothing. Neither the transferred departments are satisfied in the least, nor have the favoured Reserved Departments even had their fill.

The sword of Damocles, which all the while hung over the head of the Hon'ble the Finance Member, in the way of the Meston Award for Bengal, has fallen listless on the floor. We breathe a deep sigh of relief. Although the province is still in debt, and has its own several needs to fulfill, yet there is this ray of hope in the way of funds to tackle one by one the schemes set forward, especially in the transferred departments and stored in the pigeon holes of the bureaux of the Hon'ble Ministers.

Dealing with one or two matters in detail with regard to receipt side, I note the increase in the Excise Department; I note it only, but have little to say in favour of a department which eats into the very vitals of our manhood and womanhood.

There is another little matter I might refer to here and that is that the Settlement Operations are just concluded in Murshidabad and Birbhum and Government proposes to levy the costs from this year. These districts have not been favoured by Nature and the inhabitants are in an acute state of distress. As a matter of fact for these two districts money for Relief Works is being distributed. This shows the unhappy state of affairs in the two districts. Yesterday, in reply to a question, the Hon'ble Member of the Revenue Department had said that aman crop in the district of Murshidabad had failed to the extent of 14 annas. Famine also, according to Government statistics is looming in the distance. For these and other cogent reasons I advocate the postponing of the Settlement operation costs for at least this year.

Regarding expenditure—I also note that in spite of penury and distress all round, the Bally Bridge is favoured, which is to afford further facilities mainly for our Jute merchants and their constituents. Surely, in such a lean year those things should have been cut down or postponed.

Then again the pampered Police is once more to get the lion's share in the profits. No less than Rs. 4 lakhs go for the improvement of the subordinate members of the force. One year it is mosquito-nets, another year it is the Sergeants, but some how or other, in some manner or way the Police, like King Charles' head, must come up for their share; while good drinking water, primary education and a thousand and one other necessities are thrust aside for the time.

This leads me to the thought as to how little is being spent on primary education in Bengal. Money is lavishly spent on our Universities and Colleges. Some College is to get a swimming bath, but the poor villagers are neglected in partaking of the elements of education.

Then, again, "Dhai" training is woefully neglected, although it affects infant mortality in the province, which is the subject of severe adverse criticism. Something is urgently needed in this direction, which in its turn will afford relief to many.

I have little to say more in the way of criticism. There is no money and suggestions are, therefore, futile, if they are to be in the form of constructive suggestions. My only hope is that the Hon'ble the Finance Member will have a better time next year—which I seriously doubt—to present to us a Budget more in accordance with our wishes and demands, and more commensurate with the needs of Bengal.

3 P.M.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MUQBUL HUSAIN: Sir, the Budget of the Government of Bengal for the year 1928-29 has been presented before us and these two days have been set apart for general discussion. Last year we had also two days for discussion of the Budget. What is the object of this general discussion? If, in the light of this general discussion there is some modification made in the Budget when it is finally presented before the House, it would be of some use. Otherwise it is mere waste of time. I should like to draw the attention of the Government Members to this fact that these two days are allotted to the members of this Council for general discussion of the Budget and I hope that Government Members, who are in authority and who can correct or modify figures in the Budget, would take into consideration all in the very light of the discussions they hear. Otherwise it is of no use and it is just like crying in the wilderness.

The sympathy of the House is due to the Hon'ble Mr. Marr who presents a deficit Budget and he regrets that he has not been able to present a satisfactory Budget before the House. Now, Sir, I think the previous Government is solely responsible for accepting this unjust Meston Award which has done such financial injustice upon the Government of Bengal and this financial settlement must be unsettled. Let all the members of the House combine and present their case before the Simon Commission and also before the Government of India and bring pressure to bear upon them to have this glaring injustice to Bengal rectified.

If I remember aright, from all other provinces half of the revenue is taken away by the Government of India but from Bengal more than two-thirds is taken away. What is the justice in this I am afraid I am not in a position to understand. So I hope the Government of Bengal as well all the members of the House should combine and present the whole case before the Simon Commission.

Sir, this deficit Budget is presented before us in the same old beaten track. There was a Retrenchment Committee. This Committee was constituted and a considerable cut was made. But I find no effect has been given to the recommendations of that Committee so far as the reserved departments are concerned. Sir, if the recommendations of the Committee had been accepted, the money thus released could have been utilised for the betterment of the people as a whole. Sir, we have been crying loud and hoarse for years together that malaria, kala-azar, small-pox, cholera, etc., have made permanent abodes in the country and have been playing havoc upon the already pale and emaciated people of Bengal, but Government have taken no appreciable step to save people from these preventible diseases, though some show attempt is being made from time to time.

As to the details of the Budget we people of Eastern Bengal, especially of Chittagong, do not feel the existence of the Irrigation Department. I find in the Budget a sum of Rs. 52 lakhs is earmarked for the purpose of irrigation, but nothing is budgeted for Chittagong.

Sir, I drew the attention of this to a number of schemes last year. One of them is the re-excavation of Dhrum Khal. Time was when the whole tract on both sides of this river was fertile, but now what do we find—the entire area on both sides of this khal is barren and no crops has been produced. Regarding the cutting of the circular bend of the Halda river, the cutting of the circular bends of Telparni Khal, the re-excavation of Konkiia Khal, the drainage of Gunaimardan Bil are schemes which should require the immediate attention of the Irrigation Department.

Sir, we had expected that there would be free and compulsory primary education in the country. These have been delayed and this year we had expected that in the month of February this Bill would be passed and in the course of a year the whole country would have free primary schools, but unfortunately nothing has been done and we do not know when it will be done.

Provision has been made in the Budget for Rs. 2,14,000 for a play-ground and a swimming bath for the students of the Madrasah and Islamia College. This money, instead of being spent for play-ground and a swimming bath, could have been more properly utilised if fee-rates of schools and colleges and seat-rents of hostels be reduced. There is the maidan and there is the tank very close to the Madrasah which can, with equal advantage, be utilised for the purpose. Sir, now that a Muhammadan Minister is at the head of the Education Department we hope that the Hon'ble Minister would try to provide educational facilities to the Muhammadan community as a whole. We expect, and naturally expect, that he will do all in his power to facilitate English education among the Muhammadan community at reduced cost so that, poor as they are, they can take full advantage of English education.

Sir, there was a proposal for a Medical School at Chittagong. I find that a sum of Rs. 75,000 has been allotted for the Medical School there. While His Excellency the Governor visited Chittagong last August, an expectation was cherished that a Medical School would be started in July, 1928. But up till now I do not see any sign of the commencement of the building in question. I hope this will be possible to do in time.

I have, times without number, drawn attention to the most insanitary condition of the rural areas. In my district of Chittagong there are 22 or 23 thanas and we have up till now been able to provide only seven Sanitary Inspectors for seven thanas. It is essentially necessary that all thanas should have Sanitary Inspectors so that the sanitary condition of the villages of Bengal may be improved gradually.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

3-15 P.M.

Babu SACHINDRA NARAYAN SANYAL: Sir, I must at the outset say that the current Budget as presented by the Hon'ble Mr. Marr is one of the gloomiest Budgets that have been presented in recent years and the document discloses a depressing state of our provincial finances. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Member to make a final and determined representation to the Government of India stating that if they do not allot to Bengal the proceeds of the Jute Export Duty it would be impossible for the Bengal Government to carry on the administration of the province.

But, Sir, in spite of the remission of the provincial contribution of Rs. 54,47,000 by the Government of India the fact remains that Bengal will still be faced with a deficit amounting to Rs. 37,43,000 in order to carry on the normal expenditure of the province. And in view of the fact that Government will not be well advised to impose fresh taxation upon the overtaxed people of Bengal, it is incumbent upon them to take recourse to retrenchment of expenditure and to approach the India Government for the allotment of Jute Duty. During the last few years which have been years of financial stringency, Government have shown very little inclination to retrench general administration expenses, which have risen from 108 to 118 lakhs of rupees in four years. We have therefore been not greatly impressed with the claim for the strictest economy which the Finance Member has advanced in his speech.

Sir, coming to the detailed consideration of the Budget we find that the Hon'ble Mr. Marr expects increased receipts from Stamps, Excise and Land Revenue. It simply means that Government expect more money by increase of litigation, by increased consumption of intoxicating drugs and by still more extracting money from the poor cultivators of the soil. May I ask is it desirable that our revenue

should increase by cultivating the habit of intemperance, litigation and other vices of the people?

Coming to the expenditure side of the Budget we find an amount of Rs. 16,16,000 only has been provided for expenditure on new schemes of which only Rs. 9,16,000 have been allotted to the transferred side of the administration for nation-building departments. Even with the present financial bankruptcy the Hon'ble Finance Member has not forgotten to provide an increased grant of 5½ lakhs of rupees for Police. But what has been done for Education? The budget discloses that an increased expenditure of about Rs. 3,39,000 has been provided under this head. Of this Rs. 2,69,000 is earmarked for the construction of the Dacca University Moslem Hall. Again an amount of Rs. 2,13,000 has been provided in the Public Works Department Budget for the acquisition of land for providing a play-ground and swimming tank for the students of the Calcutta Madrasah and the Islamia College. I do not grudge the Mussalman Community the share in the public revenue they have secured through the good offices of the Muhammadan Education Minister but it looks scandalous when we compare those amounts with the niggardly grant allotted to the Calcutta University, and when we take into account that the legitimate needs of primary and secondary education are being completely ignored. In these days of financial stringency these works might well have been postponed.

Sir, I have the honour to represent the Rajshahi district and I feel inclined to offer a few remarks upon the general policy of the administration affecting my district in the hope that these grievances may be redressed. The rural areas of Rajshahi are notorious for unhealthy climate due to the ravages of malaria, kala-azar, cholera, etc.; in illiteracy and poverty my district has got few parallels; in the matter of cottage industries (*e.g.*, Sericulture, etc.) my district though once famous is now considered a backward district in that respect, and I may say in this connection that the Government have expedited this task by removing the Sericulture School from Rampur-Boalia without any plausible ground and in spite of popular protests. The villages which in the days of yore were full of men and women are now getting depopulated for scarcity of food to eat and water to drink. The silting up of the Boral river has prejudicially affected the sanitation of the district but Government seem to be callous to that grievance. The grant allotted to the Varendra Research Society has been reduced although it has been represented to the authorities that the Society has been experiencing great difficulty on account of paucity of funds. Next the question of installing water-works plant at Rajshahi Town is still being put off by the Government on some flimsy pretexts although the authorities have been of late showing great zeal in realising donations. Then again I may point out that about six years back Late Kumar Basanta Kumar Roy of Dighapatia bequeathed a large sum of money for the establishment of an Agricultural College

at Rajshahi—which place is the proud possessor of a splendid agricultural farm and yet that important project is being unnecessarily delayed. If the framers of the present Budget would have been more attentive towards the nation-building works, a further grant from Governmental revenues would have been sufficient to start a fairly well equipped Agricultural College at Rajshahi for the benefit of the province. I fail to understand why the petty amount granted to the Darjeeling Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium in previous years has been discontinued this year and no grant allotted to the Bangiya Sahitya Parisad.

Sir, we note with considerable regret that in the present Budget instead of spending major portion of the revenue in a manner that would directly promote the sanitary, educational and industrial interests of the masses and thereby enhance their wealth-producing capacities, instead of directing the administrative policy of fostering the spirit of self-help among the illiterate poor so that they may grow up as useful citizens, instead of making insurance against preventible diseases, against insanitation and water scarcity in the villages, against illiteracy and against the decay of agriculture and cottage industries the bulk of the revenue is being used up in feeding an ever discontented, supervising officials and in spending vast amounts on brick and mortar. This state of things, in a country where more than 90 per cent. of the population are illiterate, where for months together pure drinking water is unavailable in numberless villages, where the poor agriculturists are extremely hard up on account of chronic indebtedness, reflect great discredit upon the administrators. I would, therefore, appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Member and the custodians of public purse so long as you do not rectify these state of affairs and apply the savings to the spread of free primary education, anti-malarial and kala-azar operations and rural water-supply the people of Bengal will not be satisfied.

Babu SURENDRA NATH RAY: Sir, I shall be very brief. I only want to put forward certain suggestions before the Hon'ble the Finance Member. About two years ago in my Budget speech I said that prisoners do not get any mosquito curtains; in the jails these poor people live in cells with little or no ventilation. The cost of providing mosquito curtains for these prisoners will be very small. There are about 12,000 prisoners in the whole of Bengal, I think, a mosquito curtain will cost about Re. 1-4. Moreover, it is not a recurring charge—one mosquito curtain will last about three years. If you provide the prisoners with these curtains, the cost will be about Rs. 15,000. I think, the grievances of these poor people should be remedied. I am very glad to see that Mr. Cassells is here, for I represented this matter at the quarterly meeting of the Alipore Central Jail. It would thus appear that a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 15,000 every three years would solve this very necessary problem.

Then, there is another fact which I want to bring to the notice of the House: it is this. In the Alipore Central Jail there are a number of prisoners awaiting trial. The number of under-trial prisoners is very large. In the last inspection report of his Excellency the Governor he also noticed that : the prisoners are huddled up together; some of them are awaiting trial for more than six months, as they cannot find people to stand surety for them. It is absolutely necessary that these prisoners should be tried as early as possible after their commitment to the Sessions Court. I think all that is necessary is a few more Sessions Judges.

I find that a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made in the Budget for increasing the pay of the European Sergeants. About 8 or 10 years ago, when the pay of these Sergeants was increased, I think it was Sir Henry Wheeler who said that in Bombay the European Sergeants got Rs. 80 or Rs. 100 per month, and that the Sergeants in Calcutta should get at least the pay drawn by the European Sergeants in Bombay, though it is a notorious fact that living in Bombay is dearer than in Calcutta. Now, on what ground the present increase is sought to be made we do not know.

Then I should like to ask the Hon'ble the Finance Member what the Government have been doing for the last four or five years with the increased receipts from the Registration Department. The increase is about Rs. 13 lakhs. If this money had been properly utilised, say, in promoting primary education, I think, the whole question of primary education in the municipal areas would have been solved. But nothing of the kind has been done or is going to be done. We now, of course, hear of a Bill for solving the problem of primary education throughout Bengal, but why not go step by step? Of course, we have heard of what this Bill is going to be, and I think it would meet with opposition from everybody and from every elected member of this Council, except perhaps the European members who will not have to pay one single pice to meet the expenses of primary education. But, I think, many of you know that legislation for primary education was introduced before, and I had it passed; but Government have taken very little interest for spreading primary education.

3-30 P.M.

If the Primary Education Bill be brought forward before the Council, as we hear it will be, I don't think it will be passed. We have got about 12 or 13 lakhs of rupees from increased fee from the Registration Department. Why not utilise for the present this amount in solving the problem of primary education in the municipal areas?

In 1921 we passed three taxation Acts, *viz.*, the Court Fees Act, the Stamp Act and the Amusement Tax Act. When these Acts were passed we were told, and told seriously, that about 70 per cent. of the

revenue derived from these measures would be utilised in the nation-building departments, but what has been done? I ask the Finance Department in all seriousness. Of course I know that Mr. Lindsay was very much opposed to the passing of my Primary Education Bill. I have got his note. Mr. Prentice was not at all in favour of it because he said that from a financial point of view it would be a very great difficulty to pass it.

These are the points which I think it proper to place before the Council.

Rai Sahib REBATI MOHAN SARKER: Sir, we meet here to-day for a general discussion of the budget of the Government of Bengal so ably drawn up by the Hon'ble Finance Member and to consider how far we are in a position to advance the interests of the country—economically, educationally, socially and politically. At the very outset the Budget of the Government is to a certain extent disappointing and discouraging when we find that we are going to have a deficit Budget this year. It is a pity that in spite of her enormous sources of revenue which have been tapped to the fullest advantage, Bengal suffers deplorably for want of any substantial measures of work of public utility such as mass Education, Sanitation, Agriculture and Industry, etc.

Sir, the question of free primary education now looms large before the public and it is my sacred duty to point out as one hailing from the Namasudra community with a population of 25 lakhs that the total sum of Rs. 27 lakhs and odd a year as provided in the Budget is not sufficient to remove the illiteracy of even the Namasudra community—not to speak of others. We all know from the last Census report that in spite of the genuine sympathy and solicitude of our benign Government for the dumb millions of the depressed classes for over 150 years illiteracy is still stalking over the land and its precentage is no less than 92 and it is to be regretted that the Government have not been able to impart a knowledge of even the three R's to the great bulk of our masses. It really pains me to compare the present educational condition of our country with the one that existed a few centuries ago. The pristine glory of our country which was due chiefly to the all-embracing educational policy of the then Government seems no longer to shed its effulgence upon the dark recesses of the ignorant masses. That Bengal at one time possessed 85,000 muktabs and pathsalas, is a brilliant record of the educational system on the pages of our ancient history. Again, when I am under painful necessity obliged to say that the Government has liberally paid out of public exchequer for hostels of Moslem boys, made special provisions for scholarships and established schools and colleges for them I do not really grudge them these advantages, but what I really mean to impress upon the Government is that the depressed classes have not received adequate and proper consideration from the

government to eradicate the evils of illiteracy and backwardness which have been eating into the vitals of the nation of which the depressed classes command the majority of population. By the way I am tempted to mention here how the Baroda State has tackled the problem of education by having ear-marked one-sixth of her revenue for the spread of education. The atmosphere of education and the system under which her children are nurtured there, is redolent of all that makes for real manhood.

Side by side with the problem of education the question of the improvement of public health in rural areas should engage the attention of Government. It is a well-known saying that the life of the nation dwelleth in the villages. Millions are dying out each year of preventible diseases such as malaria, kala-a-zar, cholera, etc. Removal of water scarcity is also a very acute problem which should be seriously considered.

3-45 P.M.

Maulvi ASIMUDDIN AHAMAD spoke in Bengali, the English translation of which is as follows:—

"Many of my friends have expressed their disappointment and resentment in the course of the discussion on the Budget and I also cannot do anything more. It is a matter for regret that Government have not given any hint that they will amend the Bengal Tenancy Act by providing money for the appointment of a new Select Committee, although an amendment of the Act in favour of the tenants has become long overdue and Government have been feeding the people of the country with hopes for six or seven years. It is obvious to everybody that without a settlement of the vexed problems which have been raised in this matter, the relation between the landlords and the tenants can not become normal nor can the tenants hope for any peace and happiness.

I also expected to find that some provision had been made for compulsory free primary education in the Budget. Not only have Government failed in their duty in this respect, they have also made it impracticable for the poor rural people to send their sons to Middle English and High English Schools, because many of these schools which have escaped disaffiliation have been deprived of grant-in-aid and they have been compelled to raise their tuition fees. A prominent example is furnished by the treatment meted out to the Paschimgaon High School in Tippera which had a brilliant career for the last twenty years. The details of this case are within the knowledge of the Hon'ble Education Minister.

Though there has not been any increased grant for education Government are not remiss about the Police Budget; it is well known, however, that the police are largely the cause of Government's unpopularity. All agitations in the country have at their root some act of oppression by the police. Reference may be made to the activities of

the police during the days of non-co-operation movement, during the last Calcutta riots, at Kulkati and in Calcutta on the last *hartal* day. In the villages the police are so much feared that the people are afraid of reporting cases of thefts to them and the loot indulged in by the police when they come to inquire into such cases cannot be described as any thing short of dacoity.

The very important Department of Agriculture has got only a nominal sum which is spent in paying the salaries of the higher officials and for a few farms. The seeds supplied are quite inadequate. Agricultural loans are badly needed. And the co-operative societies provide only nominal funds. The money allocated for the Health Department is quite insufficient. A bund has been erected by the public across the Dakatia near Bagmara, Union No. 1, Laxam thana, in Tippera to make up for deficiency in water-supply, but this interferes with trade and police help in the matter was sought but it has failed to settle the dispute."

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED (Deputy President): I wish to draw the attention of the Government Members to certain things. For the provision of water-supply the usual grant of Rs. 2,50,000 has been made, but I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary are aware that northern Bengal has been suffering from acute distress on account of scarcity of water and several District Boards have applied for grants to introduce water-supply schemes. The usual reply has been given—and I know the Revenue Member has said so in certain cases—that it is not the duty of the department to supply water. I do not know to whom to go, but for the sake of humanity I would ask the Government to increase this grant at least by another Rs. 50,000, so that the water scarcity now prevailing in such districts as Rajshahi, Malda and Dinajpur may be removed. During the last year there has been no rain in those places and the people there have been suffering from want of water; so this additional grant of Rs. 50,000, if sanctioned, will alleviate the distress of the people to a certain extent.

The question of the free supply of serum was discussed last year. We were given hopes that serum would be distributed free from this year, but on account of financial stringency this is not possible now. I submit that Government should do something for the cultivators. During epidemics the cattle die in great numbers and I therefore appeal to the Government Members to grant a "sufficient sum" for the free supply of serum to the cultivators. They are too poor to purchase it themselves.

With regard to Public Health, several District Boards have tried to cope with the situation with the assistance of Government and I can definitely say that in this matter Government have not paid much attention to the eradication of such diseases as cholera, kala-azar, etc. I

regret very much that the usual grant of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head Kala-azar has been reduced to Rs. 1,50,000 and I submit that it is not the proper time to curtail the grant which was made last year.

Another subject with which I should like to deal is the sinking of tube-wells for irrigation purposes. When we approach the Irrigation Engineer in regard to this matter we are told that this is the business of the Agricultural Department. When we approach that Department they say that they have no engineer. Last year we provided for an Agricultural Engineer and I do not know why this Agricultural Engineer has not been appointed. This year provision has again been made for this Agricultural Engineer. I hope this officer will be appointed as early as possible, so that people may approach this gentleman for the sinking of tube-wells instead of approaching big firms for the purpose.

Coming to the scheme for water-supply in Rampur-Boalia, this has already been referred to by Babu Sachindra Narayan Sanyal. We hoped that this scheme would be sanctioned this year, but nothing has been done. I hope that the necessary loan will be given to the Rajshahi Municipality for the purpose.

With regard to Education, I find that a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs has been made for the play-ground and swimming tank of the Islamia College, I do not grudge the college this amount, but I regret that the small sum of Rs. 20,000 which was sanctioned for the Rajshahi Senior Madrasah and which we hoped would be granted this year, has not been included in the Budget. We opened a class with the permission of the Director of Public Instruction, anticipating that this grant would be made, so that the additional buildings necessary might be constructed. If this additional building is not constructed, I am afraid that this class will have to be dismissed. I hope the Education Minister will find this money any how.

With regard to the Primary Education Bill, we are all very keen on having it, but I submit that if taxation comes in its wake, we had better not have it at all. This is all that I have got to say.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I find that no other non-official member wants to speak. I will now adjourn the Council for ten minutes and when the Council reassembles I will ask the Government Members to reply.

At 4-10 P.M. the Council was adjourned for ten minutes.

Adjournment.

On reassembling, the official members abstained from replying to the debate and in the absence of further business the Council was adjourned to 2-30 P.M. on the 12th March, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

B. G. Press—15-3-1928—200:M—1,200—W G. & others

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B. G. Press—16-5-1928—388M—1,200—C. B.